

**CADDO PARISH CLERK OF COURT
SHREVEPORT, LOUISIANA**

**ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
As of and for the year ended June 30, 2023**

**CADDO PARISH CLERK OF COURT
Shreveport, Louisiana**

TABLE OF CONTENTS

June 30, 2023

| | Statement | Page |
|--|------------------|-------------|
| Independent Auditor's Report | | 3-5 |
| <u>Required Supplementary Information (Part I)</u> | | |
| Management's Discussion and Analysis | | 7-12 |
| <u>Basic Financial Statements</u> | | |
| Governmental Fund Balance Sheet / Statement of Net Position | A | 14 |
| Reconciliation of Fund Balance on the Balance Sheet for Governmental Funds to Net Position of Governmental Activities on the Statement of Net Position | B | 15 |
| Statement of Governmental Fund Revenues, Expenditures and Changes in Fund Balance / Statement of Activities | C | 16 |
| Reconciliation of the Statement of Revenues, Expenditures, and Changes In Fund Balance of the Governmental Fund to the Statement of Activities | D | 17 |
| Combined Statement of Fiduciary Assets and Liabilities | E | 18 |
| Combined Statement of Changes in Fiduciary Net Position | F | 19 |
| Notes to the Financial Statements | | 21-36 |
| <u>Required Supplementary Information (Part II)</u> | | |
| | Schedule | |
| Budgetary Comparison Schedule – General Fund | 1 | 38 |
| Schedule of Proportionate Share of Net Pension Liability | 2 | 39 |
| Schedule of Employer's Contributions | 3 | 40 |
| Schedule of Changes in Net OPEB Liability and Related Ratios | 4 | 41 |
| Notes to Required Supplementary Information | | 42-43 |
| <u>Other Supplemental Information</u> | | |
| Combining Statement of Fiduciary Net Position – Custodial Funds | 5 | 45 |
| Combining Statement of Changes in Fiduciary Net Position | 6 | 46 |
| Schedule of Compensation, Benefits, and Other Payments To Agency Head or Chief Executive Officer | 7 | 47 |
| Justice System Funding Schedule – Receiving Entity As Required by Act 87 if the 2020 Regular Legislative Session | 8 | 48 |
| Justice System Funding Schedule – Collecting/Disbursing Entity As Required by Act 87 if the 2020 Regular Legislative Session | 9 | 49-50 |

CADDO PARISH CLERK OF COURT
Shreveport, Louisiana

TABLE OF CONTENTS

June 30, 2023

Other Reports Required by *Government Auditing Standards*

| | |
|---|-------|
| Independent Auditor's Report on Internal Control over Financial Reporting and on Compliance and Other Matters Based on an Audit of Financial Statements Performed in Accordance with <i>Government Auditing Standards</i> | 52-53 |
| Schedule of Findings | 54 |
| Schedule of Prior Year Findings | 55 |
| Management Responses | 56 |

Report on Other Legal and Regulatory Requirements

| | |
|---|-------|
| Independent Accountant's Report on Applying Agreed-Upon Procedures | 58-67 |
| Management Responses | 68 |



Dees Gardner, Certified Public Accountants, LLC

Deborah D. Dees, CPA/CFF
122 Jefferson Street
Mansfield, LA 71052
www.deesgardnercpas.com

Maura Dees Gardner, CPA, CFE
1659 Hwy 171 / P.O. Box 328
Stonewall, LA 71078
Phone: (318) 872-3007

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

The Honorable Mike Spence
Caddo Parish Clerk of Court
Shreveport, Louisiana

Report on the Audit of the Financial Statements

Opinions

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of the governmental activities, the major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information of the Caddo Parish Clerk of Court (Clerk of Court), Shreveport, Louisiana, as of and for the year ended June 30, 2023, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the Clerk of Court's basic financial statements as listed in the table of contents.

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the respective financial position of the governmental activities, the major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information of the Clerk of Court, as of June 30, 2023, and the respective changes in financial position thereof for the year then ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

Basis for Opinions

We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAS) and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in **Government Auditing Standards**, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements section of our report. We are required to be independent of the Clerk of Court and to meet our other ethical responsibilities, in accordance with the relevant ethical requirements relating to our audit. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinions.

Responsibilities of Management for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America; this includes the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, management is required to evaluate whether there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about the Clerk of Court's ability to continue as a going concern for twelve months beyond the financial statement date, including any currently known information that may raise substantial doubt shortly thereafter.

Auditor's Responsibility for the Audit of the Financial Statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinions. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not absolute assurance and therefore is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards and *Government Auditing Standards* will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control. Misstatements are considered material if there is a substantial likelihood that, individually or in the aggregate, they would influence the judgment made by a reasonable user based on the financial statements.

In performing an audit in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards and *Government Auditing Standards*, we:

- Exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit.
- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, and design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks. Such procedures include examining, on a test basis, evidence regarding the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Clerk of Court's internal control. Accordingly, no such opinion is expressed.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluate the overall presentation of the financial statements.
- Conclude whether, in our judgment, there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about the Clerk of Court's ability to continue as a going concern for a reasonable period of time.

We are required to communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit, significant audit findings, and certain internal control-related matters that we identified during the audit.

Required Supplementary Information

Accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America require that the information listed in the table of contents as Required Supplemental Information Part I and Part II be presented to supplement the basic financial statements. Such information, although not a part of the basic financial statements, is required by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board, who considers it to be an essential part of financial reporting for placing the basic financial statements in an appropriate operational, economic, or historical context. We have applied certain limited procedures to required supplementary information in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America, which consisted of inquiries of management about the methods of preparing the information and comparing the information for consistency with management's responses to our inquiries, the basic financial statements, and other knowledge we obtained during our audit of the basic financial statements. We do not express an opinion or provide any assurance on the information because the limited procedures do not provide us with sufficient evidence to express an opinion or provide any assurance.

Supplemental Information

Our audit was conducted for the purpose of forming opinions on the financial statements that collectively comprise the Caddo Parish Clerk of Court's basic financial statements. The supplementary information, listed in the table of contents as Other Supplemental Information, is presented for purposes of additional analysis and is not a required part of the basic financial statements.

The supplementary information is the responsibility of management and were derived from and relates directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the basic financial statements. The information has been subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audit of the basic financial statements and certain additional procedures, including comparing and reconciling such information directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the basic financial statements or to the basic financial statements themselves, and other additional procedures in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. In our opinion, the information is fairly stated, in all material respects, in relation to the financial statements as a whole.

Other Reporting Required by *Government Auditing Standards*

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, we have also issued our report dated November 10, 2023, on our consideration of the Caddo Parish Clerk of Court's internal control over financial reporting and on our tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements and other matters. The purpose of that report is to describe the scope of our testing of internal control over financial reporting and compliance and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on the internal control over financial reporting or on compliance. That report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* and in considering the Caddo Parish Clerk of Court's internal control over financial reporting and compliance.

Report on Other Legal and Regulatory Requirements

In accordance with the requirements of the Louisiana Legislative Auditor, we have issued a report, dated November 10, 2023, on the results of our state-wide agree-upon procedures performed in accordance with attestation standards established by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants and the standards applicable to attestation engagements contained in *Government Auditing Standards*. The purpose of that report is solely to describe the scope of testing performed on those control and compliance areas identified in the Louisiana Legislative Auditor's state-wide agreed-upon procedures, and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on control or compliance.

Dees Gardner, Certified Public Accountants, LLC

Mansfield, Louisiana
November 10, 2023

REQUIRED SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION (PART I)

CADDO PARISH CLERK OF COURT

Shreveport, Louisiana

MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS

As management of the Caddo Parish Clerk of Court, Shreveport, Louisiana, (hereafter referred to as the Clerk of Court) we offer the readers of the Clerk of Court's financial statements this narrative overview and analysis of the financial activities of the Clerk of Court as of and for the year ended June 30, 2023. We encourage readers to consider the information presented here in conjunction with the Clerk of Court's basic financial statements and supplementary information provided in this report in assessing the efficiency and effectiveness of our stewardship of public resources.

FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

At June 30, 2023, the total liabilities and deferred inflows of resources of the Clerk of Court exceeded the total assets and deferred outflows of resources with a deficit of \$27,057,406 (net position). This is a decrease in the deficit of \$31,344 compared to the prior year's ending net position deficit of \$27,088,750.

Net pension liability increased \$4,058,094 (80.81%) from \$5,021,769 at June 30, 2022, to \$9,079,863 at June 30, 2023.

Other postemployment liabilities increased by \$217,681 (1.02%). The unfunded liability increased from \$21,362,860 for year ended June 30, 2022 to \$21,580,541 at June 30, 2023.

Total revenues for the year ended June 30, 2023, decreased 3.25% (\$368,075). The Clerk of Court's total general and program revenues were \$10,946,028 during the year ended June 30, 2023, compared to \$11,314,103 during year ended June 30, 2022.

During the year ended June 30, 2023, the Clerk of Court's total expenses, excluding depreciation and amortization, were \$10,619,061, compared to \$10,343,763 during year ended June 30, 2022. Depreciation and amortization expense was \$295,623 in 2023 and \$270,715 in 2022.

OVERVIEW OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

This discussion and analysis is intended to serve as an introduction to the Clerk of Court's basic financial statements. The Clerk of Court's basic financial statements include three components: (1) government-wide financial statements, (2) fund financial statements, and (3) notes to the financial statements. This report also contains additional required supplementary information (budgetary schedules) and other supplementary information in addition to the basic financial statements. These components are described below:

Government-wide Financial Statements

The government-wide financial statements provide a broad view of the Clerk of Court's operations in a manner similar to a private-sector business. The statements provide both short-term and long-term information about the Clerk of Court's financial position, which assists users in assessing the Clerk of Court's economic condition at the end of the year. These statements are prepared using the economic resources measurement focus and the accrual basis of accounting similar to methods used by most businesses. These statements report all revenues and expenses connected with the year even if cash has not been received or paid and include all assets of the Clerk of Court as well as all liabilities. The government-wide financial statements include two statements:

- **The *statement of net position*** presents all of the Clerk of Court's assets and liabilities, with the difference between the two reported as "net position". Over time, increases or decreases in the Clerk of Court's net position may serve as a useful indicator of whether the financial position of the Clerk of Court is improving or deteriorating.
- **The *statement of activities*** presents information showing how the Clerk of Court's net position changed during the most recent year using the full accrual basis of accounting. All changes in net position are reported as soon as the underlying event giving rise to the change occurs, regardless of the timing of the related cash flows. Therefore, some revenues and some expenses that are reported in this statement will not result in cash flows until future years.

The government-wide financial statements can be found immediately following this discussion and analysis.

Fund Financial Statements

A fund is a grouping of related accounts that is used to maintain control over resources that have been segregated for specific activities or objectives. The Clerk of Court, like other state and local governments, uses fund accounting to ensure and demonstrate compliance with finance-related legal requirements.

The funds of the Clerk of Court can be divided into two categories; governmental funds and fiduciary funds.

- *Governmental funds.* The services provided by the Clerk of Court are financed through governmental funds. Governmental funds are used to account for essentially the same functions reported as governmental activities in the government-wide financial statements. However, unlike the government-wide financial statements, the governmental fund financial statements focus on near-term inflows and outflows of spendable resources, as well as on balances of spendable resources at the end of the year. Such information may be useful in evaluating the Clerk of Court's near-term financing requirements. This approach is known as using the flow of financial resources measurement focus and the modified accrual basis of accounting. These statements provide a detailed short-term view of the Clerk of Court's finances and assists in determining whether there will be adequate financial resources available to meet the current needs of the Clerk of Court.

Because the focus of governmental funds is narrower than that of the government-wide financial statements, it is useful to compare the information presented for governmental funds with similar information presented for governmental activities in the government-wide financial statements. By doing so, users may better understand the long-term impact of the Clerk of Court's near-term financing decisions. Both the governmental funds balance sheet and the governmental funds statement of revenues, expenditures, and changes in fund balances provide a reconciliation to facilitate this comparison between governmental funds and the governmental activities. These reconciliations are presented on the page immediately following each governmental funds financial statement.

The Clerk of Court has one governmental fund, the General Fund (*Salary Fund*), which is classified as a major fund.

- *Fiduciary funds.* Fiduciary funds, which consist solely of custodial funds, are used to account for resources held for the benefit of parties outside of the government. The Clerk of Court is responsible for ensuring that the assets reported in these funds are used for their intended purposes. The Clerk of Court's fiduciary activities are reported in a statement of fiduciary net position and a statement of changes in fiduciary net position. Fiduciary fund financial statements are presented as part of the basic financial statements in this report. The fiduciary funds use the accrual basis of accounting.

Notes to the Financial Statements

The notes to the financial statements provide additional information that is essential to a full understanding of the data provided in the government-wide and fund financial statements. The notes to the financial statements can be found immediately following the governmental fund financial statements.

Required Supplementary Information

The basic financial statements are followed by a section of required supplementary information. This section includes a budgetary comparison schedule, which includes reconciliation between the statutory fund balance for budgetary purposes and the fund balance of the General Fund as presented in the governmental fund financial statements. Additionally, this section includes information about employee and retiree health and pension benefits. Following the required supplementary information is other supplementary information that is provided to show additional details.

Other Supplementary Information

The schedule of compensation, benefits and other payments to agency head or chief executive officer is presented to fulfill the requirements of Louisiana Revised Statute 24:513(A)(3). The justice system funding reporting schedules are presented to fulfill the requirements of Louisiana Revised Statute 24:515.2.

FINANCIAL ANALYSIS OF GOVERNMENT-WIDE ACTIVITIES

Net Position

The following table provides a summary of the Clerk's net position:

Caddo Parish Clerk of Court's Statement of Net Position

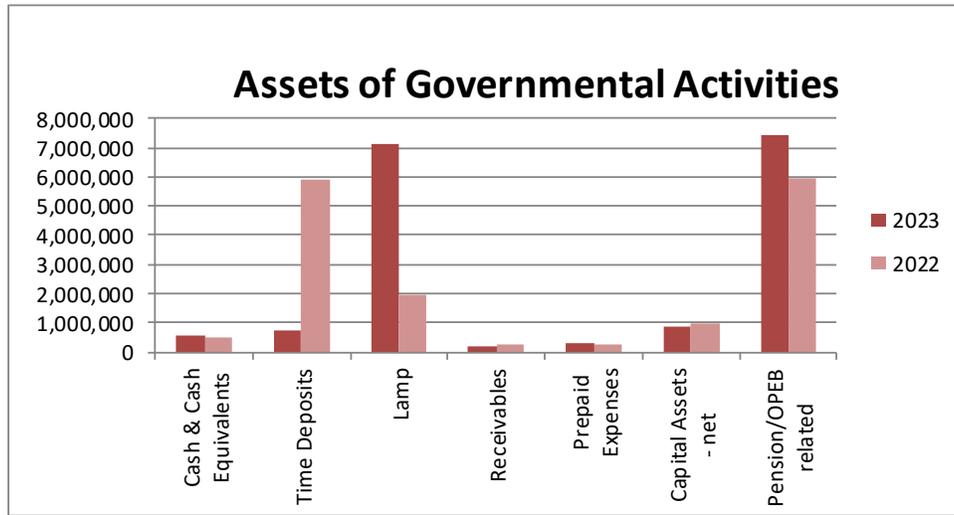
| | <u>June 30, 2023</u> | <u>June 30, 2022</u> |
|--|----------------------|----------------------|
| Assets: | | |
| Current assets | \$ 1,130,987 | \$ 1,069,145 |
| Investments | 7,900,000 | 7,900,000 |
| Capital assets, net | 897,719 | 1,000,605 |
| Total assets | <u>9,928,706</u> | <u>9,969,750</u> |
| Deferred Outflows of Resources: | | |
| Pension and OPEB related | <u>7,404,430</u> | <u>5,962,262</u> |
| Total assets and deferred outflows of resources | <u>\$ 17,333,136</u> | <u>\$ 15,932,012</u> |
| Liabilities: | | |
| Current liabilities | \$ 223,630 | \$ 454,832 |
| Long-term liabilities outstanding | | |
| Accrued compensated absences | 388,475 | 483,676 |
| Net pension liability | 9,079,863 | 5,021,769 |
| Other postemployment liabilities | <u>21,580,541</u> | <u>21,362,860</u> |
| Total liabilities | <u>31,272,509</u> | <u>27,323,137</u> |
| Deferred Inflows of Resources | | |
| Pension and OPEB related | 13,118,033 | 15,697,625 |
| Net Position | | |
| Net investment in capital assets | 897,719 | 1,000,605 |
| Unrestricted | <u>(27,955,125)</u> | <u>(28,089,355)</u> |
| Total net position (deficit) | <u>(27,057,406)</u> | <u>(27,088,750)</u> |
| Total liabilities, deferred inflows of resources, and net position | <u>\$ 17,333,136</u> | <u>\$ 15,932,012</u> |

Net position may serve over time as a useful indicator of the Clerk of Court's financial position. As of June 30, 2023, the Clerk of Court's liabilities and deferred inflows of resources exceeded assets and deferred outflows of resources for a deficit of \$27,057,406. Comparatively, as of the June 30, 2022, the Clerk of Court's financial statements report that liabilities and deferred inflows of resources exceeded assets and deferred outflows of resources by \$27,088,750. These deficits in net position are caused primarily by the adoption of GASB 68 requiring recognition of the Clerk of Court's net pension liability and the adoption of GASB 75 increasing other postemployment liabilities.

At June 30, 2023, \$897,719 of the of the Clerk of Court's net position reflects capital assets with a historical cost of \$3,407,939 and accumulated depreciation and amortization of \$2,510,220 compared to \$1,000,605 of net position for the prior year with a historical cost of \$3,242,335 and accumulated depreciation of \$2,241,730. There is no debt associated with these assets. The remaining net position is unrestricted and may be used to meet the Clerk's ongoing obligations to the citizens of Caddo Parish. As of June 30, 2023, the Clerk of Court had a deficit unrestricted net position.

The Clerk of Court continues to maintain a high level of liquidity. \$578,701 is deposited in demand deposit accounts as of June 30, 2023, compared to \$485,337 in the prior year. \$750,000 is invested in short-term (maturities of one year or less) certificates of deposit with various financial institutions as of June 30, 2023, compared to \$5,925,000 in the prior year. The change in certificate of deposit balances is the result of moving funds into the Louisiana Asset Management Pool, Inc. \$7,150,000 is the balance of LAMP accounts as of June 30, 2023, compared to a balance of \$1,975,000 in the prior year. Total investment balances remained unchanged year over year at \$7,900,000 at June 30, 2023. Deposits with the Louisiana Asset Management Pool, Inc. may be withdrawn at any time without penalty. The Clerk of Court had combined cash, interest bearing deposits, and investments of \$8,478,701 and \$8,385,337 at June 30, 2023 and 2022, respectively. These balances do not include cash held in fiduciary fund accounts.

The following chart depicts assets by category for the years ending June 30, 2023 and 2022:



Changes in Net Position

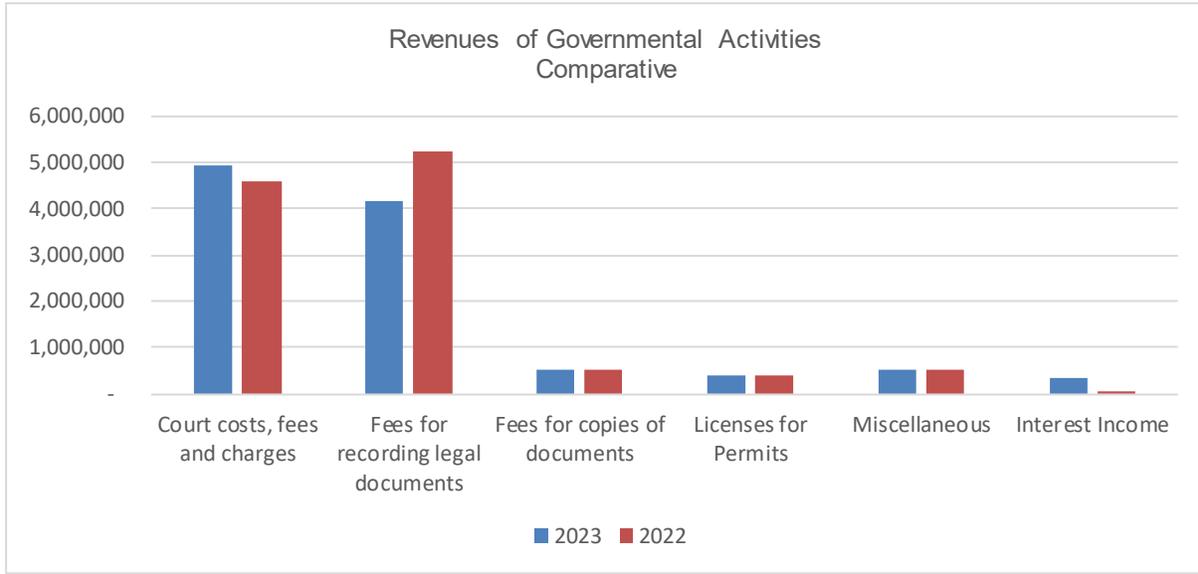
Comparative data for government-wide information is presented as it accumulates and is presented to assist in future years. The following table provides a summary of the Clerk's changes in net position:

Caddo Parish Clerk of Court's Changes in Net Position
Governmental Activities

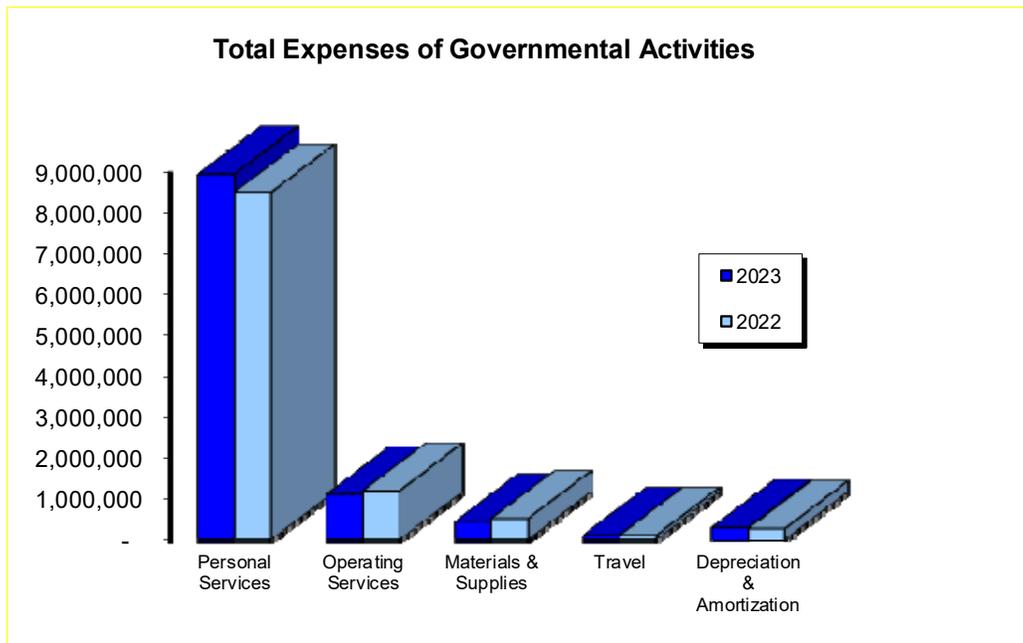
| | June 30, 2023 | June 30, 2022 |
|-------------------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|
| Revenues: | | |
| Program revenues: | | |
| Court costs, fees and charges | \$ 4,921,672 | \$ 4,595,457 |
| Fees for recording legal documents | 4,188,803 | 5,246,043 |
| Other charges for services | 939,651 | 945,156 |
| General revenues: | | |
| Interest | 366,156 | 66,474 |
| Loss on sale of assets | - | (49,506) |
| Other | 529,746 | 510,479 |
| Total Revenues | <u>10,946,028</u> | <u>11,314,103</u> |
| Expenses | | |
| Judiciary | <u>10,914,684</u> | <u>10,614,478</u> |
| Increase (Decrease) in net position | <u>31,344</u> | <u>699,625</u> |
| Net position, beginning of year | <u>(27,088,750)</u> | <u>(27,788,375)</u> |
| Net position, end of year | <u>\$ (27,057,406)</u> | <u>\$ (27,088,750)</u> |

The Clerk of Court's net position increased by \$31,344 or 0.12% during the year ended June 30, 2023, compared to a increase of \$699,625 or 2.52% during the prior year. Approximately 91.82% (\$10,050,126) of the Clerk of Court's total revenues were derived through charges for services and licenses and permits in 2023 compared to 95.34% (\$10,786,656) in 2022. Expenses incurred by the Clerk of Court are primarily for the provision of legal recordings of the First Judicial District, Caddo Parish, Louisiana. Approximately 82.07% (\$8,958,082) of the Clerk of Court's expenses are for salaries and related payroll taxes and employee benefits during the year ended June 30, 2023, compared to 80.22% (\$8,514,825) during the prior year. In 2023, Governmental activities program revenues were less than program expenses by \$864,558.

The following chart depicts revenues by category for the years ended June 30, 2023 and 2022:



The following chart depicts expenses by category for the years ended June 30, 2023 and 2022:



FINANCIAL ANALYSIS OF THE CLERK'S INDIVIDUAL FUNDS

As noted earlier, the Clerk of Court uses fund accounting to ensure and demonstrate compliance with finance-related legal requirements.

Governmental Funds

The focus of the Clerk of Court's governmental fund is to provide information on the near-term inflows, outflows, and balances of spendable resources. Such information is useful in assessing the Clerk of Court's financing requirements. In particular, unassigned fund balance may serve as a useful measure of the Clerk of Court's net resources available for spending at the end of the year. As of the end of the year, the Clerk of Court's governmental fund (general fund) reported an ending fund balance of \$8,769,460, an increase of \$291,691 (3.44%) compared to the prior year fund balance of \$8,477,769.

The general fund is the operating fund of the Clerk of Court. A total of \$8,476,791 (96.66%) of the ending fund balance is unassigned and is available for spending in the coming year while \$292,669 (3.34%) is non-spendable and represents amounts expended for prepaid items. Additionally, as a measure of the general fund's liquidity, it may be useful to compare the unassigned fund balance to total fund expenditures. The unassigned fund balance of \$8,476,791, represents 83.11% of the total general fund expenditures (\$10,199,501) for the year ended.

GENERAL FUND BUDGETARY HIGHLIGHTS

Formal budgetary integration is employed as a management control device during the fiscal year. The budget policy of the Clerk of Court complies with state law, as amended, and as set forth in Louisiana Revised Statutes Title 39, Chapter 9, Louisiana Local Government Budget Act (LSA – R.S. 39:1301 et seq.).

The Clerk of Court's budget was amended once during the year.

The actual expenditures were \$240,459 (2.30%) less than the final budgeted amounts and actual revenues were \$257,567 more (2.52%) than the final budgeted amounts.

CAPITAL ASSET ADMINISTRATION

Capital Assets

The Clerk of Court's investment in capital assets for its governmental activities as of June 30, 2023, totaled \$3,407,939, net of accumulated depreciation and amortization of \$2,510,220, leaving a book value of \$897,719. This investment in capital assets consists of office equipment, furniture and fixtures, office improvements, and right-of-use assets.

Actual costs to purchase capital assets were \$192,737 in 2023 compared to \$71,903 during 2022

ECONOMIC FACTORS AND NEXT YEAR'S BUDGETS AND RATES

The following economic factors were considered when the budget for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2024, was prepared:

- Revenues are expected to remain consistent with the prior year.
- Other expenditures are expected to remain consistent with the prior year.

REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION

This financial report is designed to provide a general overview of the finances of the Caddo Parish Clerk of Court, Shreveport, Louisiana, and seeks to demonstrate the Clerk of Court's accountability for the money it receives. Questions concerning any of the information provided in this report or requests for additional information should be addressed to the Honorable Mike Spence, Clerk of Court for Caddo Parish, 501 Texas Street, Room 103, Shreveport, Louisiana, 71101-5408, or by calling (318) 226-6775.

BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

CADDO PARISH CLERK OF COURT
Shreveport, Louisiana

STATEMENT A

Governmental Funds Balance Sheet / Statement of Net Position
June 30, 2023

| | Governmental Funds Financial Statements <u>Balance Sheet</u> General Fund | Adjustments | Government-wide Statements <u>Statement of Net Position</u> |
|---|--|--------------------|---|
| ASSETS | | | |
| Current assets: | | | |
| Cash and cash equivalents | \$ 578,700 | \$ - | \$ 578,700 |
| Investments | 7,900,000 | - | 7,900,000 |
| Receivables, net | 221,721 | - | 221,721 |
| Accrued interest | - | 37,897 | 37,897 |
| Prepaid expenses | 292,669 | - | 292,669 |
| Noncurrent assets: | | | |
| Capital assets, net | - | 897,719 | 897,719 |
| TOTAL ASSETS | <u>\$ 8,993,090</u> | <u>935,616</u> | <u>9,928,706</u> |
| DEFERRED OUTFLOWS OF RESOURCES | | | |
| OPEB related | | 3,661,143 | 3,661,143 |
| Pension related | | 3,743,287 | 3,743,287 |
| TOTAL DEFERRED OUTFLOWS OF RESOURCES | | <u>7,404,430</u> | <u>7,404,430</u> |
| LIABILITIES | | | |
| Current liabilities: | | | |
| Salaries and benefits payable | \$ 110,599 | - | 110,599 |
| Accrued compensated absences | 113,031 | - | 113,031 |
| Noncurrent liabilities: | | | |
| Accrued compensated absences | - | 388,475 | 388,475 |
| Other postemployment benefit liabilities | - | 21,580,541 | 21,580,541 |
| Net pension liability | - | 9,079,863 | 9,079,863 |
| TOTAL LIABILITIES | <u>223,630</u> | <u>31,048,879</u> | <u>31,272,509</u> |
| DEFERRED INFLOWS OF RESOURCES | | | |
| OPEB related | | 12,885,957 | 12,885,957 |
| Pension related | | 232,076 | 232,076 |
| TOTAL DEFERRED INFLOWS OF RESOURCES | | <u>13,118,033</u> | <u>13,118,033</u> |
| FUND BALANCE/NET POSITION | | | |
| Fund Balances: | | | |
| Nonspendable - Prepaid expenses | 292,669 | (292,669) | |
| Unassigned | 8,476,791 | (8,476,791) | |
| TOTAL FUND BALANCES | <u>8,769,460</u> | <u>(8,769,460)</u> | |
| TOTAL LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCES | <u>\$ 8,993,090</u> | <u>35,397,452</u> | |
| Net Position: | | | |
| Net investment in capital assets | | 897,719 | 897,719 |
| Unrestricted | | (27,955,125) | (27,955,125) |
| TOTAL NET POSITION | | <u>\$ -</u> | <u>\$ (27,057,406)</u> |

The notes to the financial statements are an integral part of this statement.
See the accompanying independent auditor's report.

CADDO PARISH CLERK OF COURT
 Shreveport, Louisiana
**Reconciliation of Fund Balance on the Balance Sheet for Governmental Funds to
 Net Position of Governmental Activities on the Statement of Net Position**
 June 30, 2023

Fund Balance - Governmental Fund \$ 8,769,460

Amounts reported for governmental activities in the statement of net position are different because:

In the governmental fund, interest income on time deposits is recognized when the time deposits have matured and the income is available. In the government-wide statements, interest income is recognized as it is earned. 37,897

Capital assets used in governmental activities are not financial resources and, therefore, are not reported in the funds.

| | | |
|--|--------------------|---------|
| Add - Capital assets | \$ 3,407,938 | |
| Deduct - Accumulated depreciation and amortization | <u>(2,510,219)</u> | 897,719 |

Certain deferred outflows are reported in the governmental activities are not financial resources and therefore are not reported in the governmental funds.

| | |
|-----------------------------------|-----------|
| Deferred outflows-OPEB | 3,661,143 |
| Deferred outflows-pension related | 3,743,287 |

Long-term liabilities are not due and payable on the current period, and therefore, are not reported in the governmental fund:

| | |
|----------------------------------|--------------------|
| Other postemployment liability | (21,580,541) |
| Accrued compensated absences | (388,475) |
| Deferred inflows-OPEB | (12,885,957) |
| Deferred inflows-pension related | (232,076) |
| Net pension liability | <u>(9,079,863)</u> |

Total Net Position of Government Activities \$ (27,057,406)

The notes to the financial statements are an integral part of this statement.
 See the accompanying independent auditor's report.

CADDO PARISH CLERK OF COURT
Shreveport, Louisiana

STATEMENT C

**Statement of Governmental Fund Revenues, Expenditures and
Changes in Fund Balance / Statement of Activities**
For the year ended June 30, 2023

| | Governmental Funds Financial Statements | | | Government-wide Statements |
|---|---|------------------|-----------|------------------------------------|
| | Statement of revenues, expenditures, and changes in fund balance | | | Statement of Activities |
| | General Fund | Adjustments | | Activities |
| EXPENDITURES/EXPENSES | | | | |
| Judiciary: | | | | |
| Personnel services & related benefits | \$ 8,345,785 | \$ 612,297 | \$ | 8,958,082 |
| Operating expenses | 1,109,535 | - | | 1,109,535 |
| Material & supplies | 440,077 | - | | 440,077 |
| Travel & other charges | 111,367 | - | | 111,367 |
| Capital outlays | 192,737 | (192,737) | | - |
| Depreciation and amortization | - | 295,623 | | 295,623 |
| TOTAL EXPENDITURES/EXPENSES | 10,199,501 | 715,183 | | 10,914,684 |
| PROGRAM REVENUES | | | | |
| Charges for service: | | | | |
| Court costs, fees and charges | 4,921,672 | - | | 4,921,672 |
| Fees for recording legal documents | 4,188,803 | - | | 4,188,803 |
| Fees for copies of documents | 521,563 | - | | 521,563 |
| Licences and permits | 418,088 | - | | 418,088 |
| TOTAL PROGRAM REVENUES | 10,050,126 | - | | 10,050,126 |
| NET PROGRAM EXPENSE | (149,375) | (715,183) | | (864,558) |
| GENERAL REVENUES | | | | |
| Other income | 76,263 | 453,483 | | 529,746 |
| Use of money and property - interest | 364,803 | 1,353 | | 366,156 |
| TOTAL GENERAL REVENUES | 441,066 | 454,836 | | 895,902 |
| NET CHANGE IN FUND BALANCE/ CHANGE IN NET POSITION | 291,691 | (260,347) | | 31,344 |
| FUND BALANCE / NET POSITION | | | | |
| Beginning of the year | 8,477,769 | | | (27,088,750) |
| End of the year | \$ 8,769,460 | | \$ | (27,057,406) |

The notes to the financial statements are an integral part of this statement.
See the accompanying independent auditor's report.

CADDO PARISH CLERK OF COURT

Shreveport, Louisiana

**Reconciliation of the Statement of Revenues, Expenditures, and Changes in
Fund Balance of the Governmental Fund to the Statement of Activities**

For the year ended June 30, 2023

| | |
|---|-------------------|
| Net change in Fund Balance - Governmental Fund | \$ 291,691 |
|---|-------------------|

Governmental funds report interest income on time deposits when the time deposits have matured and the income is available. However, in the statement of activities accrued interest is reported as revenue.

| | |
|---|-------|
| Increase (decrease) in accrued interest | 1,353 |
|---|-------|

Governmental funds report capital outlays as expenditures. However in the Statement of activities, the cost of assets are capitalized and allocated over their estimated useful lives and reported as depreciation and amortization expense. Therefore, capital expenditures are not recorded in the statement of activities.

| | |
|-------------------------------|-----------|
| Capital outlays | 192,737 |
| Depreciation and amortization | (295,623) |

Pension expenses not requiring the use of current economic resources are not recorded in the fund financial statements.

| | |
|---|---------|
| Non-employer contributions to cost-sharing pension plan | 453,483 |
|---|---------|

In the Statement of Activities long-term liabilities are not due and payable in the current period, and therefore, are not reported in the governmental fund statements.

| | |
|--------------------------------|------------------|
| Pension expense | \$ (901,322) |
| Other postemployment benefits | 193,824 |
| Long-term compensated absences | 95,201 |
| | <u>(612,297)</u> |

| | |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Net change in Net Position | \$ <u>31,344</u> |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------------|

The notes to the financial statements are an integral part of this statement.
See the accompanying independent auditor's report.

CADDO PARISH CLERK OF COURT
SHREVEPORT, LOUISIANA

Combined Statement of Fiduciary Net Position
June 30, 2023

| | | Custodial Funds |
|--|-----------|----------------------------|
| Assets | | |
| Cash and cash equivalents | \$ | 25,897,688 |
| Investments | | 7,138,000 |
| Other financial instruments | | 39,915 |
| Total Assets | \$ | 33,075,603 |
| Net Position | | |
| Fiduciary net position - held for others | \$ | 33,075,603 |

The notes to the financial statements are an integral part of this statement.
See the accompanying independent auditor's report.

CADDO PARISH CLERK OF COURT
SHREVEPORT, LOUISIANA

Combined Statement of Changes in Fiduciary Net Position
For the year ended June 30, 2023

| | Custodial Funds |
|---|----------------------------|
| ADDITIONS: | |
| Suits and successions | \$ 12,187,095 |
| Investment income | 320,867 |
| Total additions | 12,507,962 |
| REDUCTIONS | |
| Clerk's costs (transferred to General Fund) | 3,113,701 |
| Court reporter costs (transferred to Court reporter fund) | 436,348 |
| Judge's Compensation Fund | 161,091 |
| Judicial Court Expense Fund | 87,973 |
| Settlements to litigants | 2,862,243 |
| Court professional fees | 425,882 |
| Battered women's fund | 8,560 |
| Pro bono projects | 16,454 |
| Summons Fee | 132,125 |
| Sheriffs' fees | 736,803 |
| Bond refunds | 671,360 |
| Other reductions | 159,220 |
| Total reductions | 8,811,760 |
| Net increase (decrease) in fiduciary net position | 3,696,202 |
| Net position- beginning | 29,379,401 |
| Net position - ending | \$ 33,075,603 |

The notes to the financial statements are an integral part of this statement.
See the accompanying independent auditor's report.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

**CADDO PARISH CLERK OF COURT
SHREVEPORT, LOUISIANA**

Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended June 30, 2023

INTRODUCTION

As provided by Article V, Section 28 of the Louisiana Constitution of 1974, the Clerk of Court serves as the ex-officio notary public; the recorder of conveyances, mortgages, and other acts; and has other duties and powers provided by law. The Clerk of Court is elected for a four-year term.

1. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

A. BASIS OF PRESENTATION

The accompanying basic financial statements of the Caddo Parish Clerk of Court (Clerk of Court) have been prepared in conformity with governmental accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America applicable to state and local governments. The Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) is the accepted standard-setting body for establishing governmental accounting and financial reporting principles. Such accounting and reporting procedures also conform to the requirements of Louisiana Revised Statute 24:513 and to the industry audit guide, *Audits of State and Local Governments*.

The significant accounting and reporting policies and practices used by the Clerk of Court are described below.

B. REPORTING ENTITY

The Clerk of Court is an independently elected official and as such, is solely responsible for the operations of his office, which includes responsibility for the hiring and retention of employees, the annual operating budget and any fund deficits, and the receipt and disbursement of funds. The Caddo Parish Commission maintains and operates the parish courthouse in which the Clerk of Court's office is located and is responsible for certain expenses incurred by the Clerk of Court as required by law. Despite this fact, the Clerk of Court was determined to be financially independent and not a component unit of the Caddo Parish Commission.

Accordingly, the Clerk of Court is a separate governmental reporting entity. The accompanying financial statements present information only on the funds and activities controlled by the Caddo Parish Clerk of Court and do not present information on the Caddo Parish Commission, the general government services provided by that governmental unit, or other separate reporting entities from the Clerk of Court.

C. FUND ACCOUNTING

The Clerk of Court uses funds to maintain its financial records during the year. Fund accounting is designed to demonstrate legal compliance and to aid financial management by segregating transactions relating to certain government functions or activities. A fund is a separate accounting entity with a self-balancing set of accounts.

Funds of the Clerk of Court are classified into two categories: governmental (General Fund) and fiduciary (custodial funds). These funds are described as follows:

Governmental Funds

Governmental funds account for all or most of the Clerk of Court's general activities. These funds focus on the sources, uses, and balances of current financial resources. Expendable assets are assigned to the various governmental funds according to the purposes for which they may be used. Current liabilities are assigned to the fund from which they will be paid. The difference between a governmental fund's assets and liabilities is reported as fund balance. In general, fund balance represents the accumulated expendable resources which may be used to finance future period programs or operations of the Clerk of Court. The following is the Clerk of Court's governmental fund:

General Fund- The General Fund (Salary Fund), as provided by Louisiana Revised Statute (R.S.) 13:781, is the principal fund of the Clerk of Court and accounts for the operations of the Clerk of Court's office. The various fees and charges due to the Clerk of Court's office are accounted for in this fund. General operating expenditures are paid from this fund.

Fiduciary Funds

Fiduciary fund reporting focuses on net position and changes in net position. The only funds accounted for in this category by the Clerk of Court are custodial funds. The Civil Jury Cost, Advance Deposit, Registry of Court, and Court Reporter custodial funds account for assets held by the Clerk of Court in a trustee capacity or as an agent for litigants pending court action and do not involve measurement of results of operations. Consequently, the custodial funds have no measurement focus, but use the accrual basis of accounting.

**CADDO PARISH CLERK OF COURT
SHREVEPORT, LOUISIANA**

Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended June 30, 2023

1. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES - (Continued)

D. MEASUREMENT FOCUS/BASIS OF ACCOUNTING

Measurement focus is a term used to describe “which” transactions are recorded within the various financial statements. Basis of accounting refers to “when” transactions are recorded regardless of the measurement focus applied.

Fund Financial Statements

The amounts reflected in the General Fund are accounted for using a current financial resources measurement focus. With this measurement focus, only current assets and current liabilities are generally included on the balance sheet. The statement of revenues, expenditures, and changes in fund balance reports on the sources (i.e., revenues and other financing sources) and uses (i.e., expenditures and other financing uses) of current financial resources. This approach is then reconciled, through adjustment, to a government-wide view of the Clerk of Court’s operations.

The amounts reflected in the General Fund use the modified accrual basis of accounting. Under the modified accrual basis of accounting, revenues are recognized when susceptible to accrual (i.e., when they become both measurable and available). Measurable means the amount of the transaction can be determined and available means collectible within the current period or soon enough thereafter to pay liabilities of the current period. The Clerk of Court considers all revenues available if they are collected within 60 days after the fiscal year end. Expenditures are recorded when the related fund liability is incurred, except for interest and principal payments on general long-term debt which is recognized when due, and certain compensated absences and claims and judgments which are recognized when the obligations are expected to be liquidated with expendable available financial resources.

Revenues

Recordings, cancellations, court attendance, criminal costs, and other fees, charges and commissions for services are recorded in the year in which they are earned.

Interest income on time deposits is recorded when the time deposits have matured and the income is available.

Substantially, all other revenues are recorded when received by the Clerk of Court.

Based on the above criteria, recordings, court attendance, criminal costs, and other fees, charges, and commissions for services are treated as susceptible to accrual.

Expenditures

Expenditures are generally recognized under the modified accrual basis of accounting when the related fund liability is incurred.

Salaries and related payroll taxes and benefits are recorded when employee services are provided to the Clerk.

Capital outlays are reported at the time purchased.

The emphasis of the fund financial statements is on major governmental funds, each displayed in a separate column. A fund is considered major if it is the primary operating fund of the entity; therefore, the Clerk of Court reports the General Fund as a major fund.

Government-wide Financial Statements

The statement of net position and the statement of activities display information about the Clerk of Court as a whole. These statements include all the financial activities of the Clerk of Court, except for fiduciary activities. Information contained in these columns reflects the economic resources measurement focus and the accrual basis of accounting. The accounting objectives of the economic resources measurement focus are the determination of operating income, changes in net position (or cost recovery) and financial position. All assets and liabilities (whether current or noncurrent) associated with the Clerk of Court’s activities are reported. Under the accrual basis of accounting, revenues are recognized when earned and expenses are recorded when the liability is incurred or the economic asset is used. Revenues, expenses, gains, losses, assets and liabilities resulting from exchange or exchange-like transactions are recognized when the exchange occurs (regardless of when cash is received or disbursed). Revenues, expenses, gains, losses, assets and liabilities resulting from

**CADDO PARISH CLERK OF COURT
SHREVEPORT, LOUISIANA**

Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended June 30, 2023

1. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES - (Continued)

D. MEASUREMENT FOCUS/BASIS OF ACCOUNTING - (Continued)

nonexchange transactions are recognized in accordance with the requirements of GASB Statement No. 33, *Accounting and Financial Reporting for Nonexchange Transactions*.

The statement of activities presents a comparison between direct expenses and program revenues for each function of the Clerk of Court's governmental activities. Direct expenses are those that are specifically associated with a program or function and, therefore, are clearly identifiable to a particular function. Program revenues include (a) fees and charges paid by the recipients for goods or services offered by the programs, and (b) grants and contributions that are restricted to meeting the operational or capital requirements of a particular program. Program revenues reduce the cost of the function to be financed from the Clerk of Court's general revenues.

Revenues that are not classified as program revenues, including interest, are presented as general revenues.

Fiduciary Fund Financial Statements

Fiduciary fund financial statements include a Combined Statement of Fiduciary Net Position and a Combined Statement of Changes in Fiduciary Net Position. The only funds accounted for in this category by the Clerk of Court are custodial funds. Data from the fiduciary funds is not incorporated in the government-wide financial statements.

E. CASH, INTEREST BEARING DEPOSITS, AND INVESTMENTS

Cash includes cash on hand, amounts in demand deposits, interest-bearing demand deposits, and money market accounts. Investments include time deposits (certificates of deposit), short-term, highly liquid investments with original maturities of approximately 90 days or less when purchased, and amounts invested with the Louisiana Asset Management Pool, Inc. (LAMP). LAMP is a non-profit corporation formed by an initiative of the State Treasurer and organized under the laws of the State of Louisiana, which operates as a local government investment pool. Under state law, the Clerk of Court may deposit funds in demand deposits, interest-bearing demand deposits, or time deposits with state banks organized under Louisiana law or any other state of the United States, or under the laws of the United States.

F. RECEIVABLES

All trade receivables are shown net of an allowance for uncollectible accounts. Trade accounts receivable outstanding an excess of 90 days comprise the trade accounts receivable allowance for uncollectible accounts.

G. PREPAID ITEMS

Certain payments to vendors reflect costs applicable to future accounting periods and are recorded as deferred outflows of resources in the financial statements.

H. CAPITAL ASSETS, RIGHT-OF-USE ASSETS, DEPRECIATION, AND AMORTIZATION

Capital assets are reported at historical cost. Donated assets are recorded as capital assets at their estimated fair value at the date of donation. The Clerk of Court maintains a threshold level of \$3,000 or more for capitalizing assets. The costs of normal maintenance and repairs that do not add to the value of the asset or materially extend asset lives are not capitalized.

Since surplus assets are sold for an immaterial amount when declared as no longer needed for public purposes, no salvage value is taken into consideration for depreciation purposes. All capital assets are depreciated using the straight-line method over the following useful lives:

| Description | Life |
|-----------------------|------------|
| Office Equipment | 5 years |
| Furniture & fixtures | 7 years |
| Building improvements | 7-20 years |

Depreciation of all exhaustible capital assets is reported as an expense in the statement of activities, with accumulated depreciation reflected in the statement of net position.

**CADDO PARISH CLERK OF COURT
SHREVEPORT, LOUISIANA**

Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended June 30, 2023

1. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES - (Continued)

H. CAPITAL ASSETS, RIGHT-OF-USE ASSETS, DEPRECIATION, AND AMORTIZATION – (Continued)

The Clerk of Court follows Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) Statement No. 87, Leases. GASB Statement No. 87 enhances the relevance and consistency of information of the government's leasing activities. It establishes requirements for lease accounting based on the principle that leases are financings of the right to use an underlying asset. A lessee is required to recognize a lease liability and an intangible right to use lease asset. The lease liability is measured at the commencement of the lease at the present value of payments expected to be made during the lease term. Subsequently, the lease liability is reduced by the principal portion of lease payments made. The lease asset is initially measured as the initial amount of the lease liability, adjusted for lease payments made at or before the lease commencement date, plus certain initial direct costs. Subsequently, the lease asset is amortized on a straight-line basis over its useful life. Capital assets reported in the statement of net position include right-of-use assets. Amortization of all right-of-use assets is reported as an expense in the statement of activities, with accumulated amortization reflected in the statement of net position.

I. DEFERRED OUTFLOWS/INFLOWS OF RESOURCES

In addition to assets, the statement of financial position reports a separate section for deferred outflows of resources. This separate financial statement element, Deferred Outflows of Resources, represents a consumption of net position that applies to a future period and so will not be recognized as an expense or expenditure until then. In addition to liabilities, the statement of financial position reports a separate section for Deferred Inflows of Resources. This separate financial statement element represents an acquisition of net position or fund balance that applies to a future period(s) and so will not be recognized as an inflow of resources (revenue) until that time. The Clerk of Court recognizes differences between expected and actual factors in total pension liability measurements, changes in assumptions about future factors in the total pension liability measurements, and the differences between projected and actual earnings on pension plan investments within these financial statement sections.

The Clerk of Court reports unearned revenue on both its government-wide and fund financial statements. Unearned revenues arise when potential revenues do not meet both the "available" and "measurable" criteria for recognition in the current period. In subsequent periods, when both revenue recognition criteria have been met or the Clerk of Court has legal claim to the resources, the unearned revenue is removed from the balance sheet and revenue is recognized. The Clerk of Court's unearned revenue consists of prepaid portal fees.

J. COMPENSATED ABSENCES AND LEAVE POLICIES

The Clerk of Court has the following policy relating to leave time:

Following completion of one year of continuous service and depending on length of service, employees of the Clerk of Court's office earn vacation leave between of between 10 work days and 23 work days annually based on anniversary date of employment. Unused balances are forfeited at the end of each anniversary period. Upon voluntary resignation or retirement, an employee is compensated for annual vacation leave balances unused and remaining.

Following completion of one year of continuous service, employees are entitled to 22.5 hours of appointment leave and 9 days of sick leave annually based on anniversary date of employment. Unused appointment balances are forfeited at the end of each anniversary period but sick leave can be rolled over up to a limit of 120 days. Upon retirement, resignation, or termination of employment, all unused appointment leave is forfeited. Employees are not entitled to be compensated for accumulated sick leave balances at retirement or resignation, however, "retiring" employees can use all accumulated sick leave balances prior to retiring.

The Clerk of Court's recognition and measurement criteria for compensated absences follows GASB Statement No. 16 which provides that vacation leave and other compensated absences with similar characteristics should be accrued as a liability as the benefits are earned by the employees if *both* of the following conditions are met:

- a. The employees' rights to receive compensation are attributable to services already rendered.
- b. It is probable that the employer will compensate the employees for the benefits through paid time off or some other means, such as cash payment at termination or retirement.

**CADDO PARISH CLERK OF COURT
SHREVEPORT, LOUISIANA**

Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended June 30, 2023

1. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES - (Continued)

K. NET POSITION AND FUND EQUITY

The Clerk of Court has implemented GASB Statement No. 63, *Financial Reporting of Deferred Outflows of Resources, Deferred Inflows of Resources, and Net Position*. In the government-wide financial statements, the difference between (a) assets and deferred outflows of resources and (b) liabilities and deferred inflows of resources is classified as net position and can be reported in three components:

- a. Net investment in capital assets - Consists of capital assets net of accumulated depreciation.
- b. Net investment in right-of-use assets – Consists of right-of-use assets net of accumulated amortization.
- c. Restricted net position – Net position is considered restricted if their use is constrained to a particular purpose. Restrictions are imposed by external organizations such as federal or state laws or buyers of the Clerk's bonds. Restricted net position is reduced by liabilities and deferred inflows of resources related to the restricted assets.
- d. Unrestricted net position – Consists of the net amount of the assets, deferred outflows of resources, liabilities, and deferred inflows of resources that are not included in the determination of net investment in capital assets.

The Clerk of Court has implemented GASB Statement No. 54, *Fund Balance Reporting and Governmental Fund Type Definitions*. This Statement provides more clearly defined fund balance categories to make the nature and extent of the constraints placed on a government's fund balance more transparent. The governmental fund financial statements present fund balances based on classifications that comprise a hierarchy that is based primarily on the extent to which the Clerk of Court is bound to honor constraints on the specific purposes for which amounts in the respective governmental funds can be spent.

In the fund financial statements, governmental fund balance is presented in five possible categories:

- *Nonspendable* – resources which cannot be spent because they are either (a) not in spendable form (such as prepaid items) or; (b) legally or contractually required to be maintained intact.
- *Restricted* – resources with constraints placed on the use of resources that are either (a) externally imposed by creditors (such as through debt covenants), grantors, contributors, or laws or regulations of other governments; or (b) imposed by law through constitutional provisions or enabling legislation.
- *Committed* – resources which are subject to limitations or constraints to specific purposes the government imposes upon itself at its highest level of decision making (the Clerk of Court). These amounts cannot be used for any other purpose unless the government takes the same highest-level action to remove or change the constraint.
- *Assigned* – resources neither restricted nor committed for which the Clerk of Court has a stated intended use for a specific purpose.
- *Unassigned* – resources that are available for any purpose.

The Clerk of Court establishes (and modifies and rescinds) fund balance commitments and assignments through adoption and amendment of the budget.

The Clerk of Court would typically use restricted fund balances first, followed by committed resources and assigned resources as appropriate opportunities arise, but reserves the right to selectively spend unassigned resources first and to defer the use of these other classified funds.

R.S. 13:785 requires that every four years (at the close of the term of office) the Clerk of Court must pay the parish treasurer the portion of the General Fund's fund balance that exceeds one-half of the revenues of the Clerk's last year of his term of office. The amount owed to the parish treasurer under R.S. 13:785 is limited to no more than the funds provided by the parish treasurer under provisions of R.S. 13:784 (A) to help defray the costs of capital assets and record books during the Clerk of Court's four-year term. At June 30, 2023, there was no amount due to the parish treasurer.

**CADDO PARISH CLERK OF COURT
SHREVEPORT, LOUISIANA**

Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended June 30, 2023

1. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES - (Continued)

L. PENSION PLAN

The Caddo Parish Clerk of Court is a participating employer in a cost-sharing, multiple-employer defined benefit pension plan as described in Note 5. For purposes of measuring the net pension liability, deferred outflows of resources and deferred inflows of resources related to pensions, and pension expense, information about the fiduciary net position of each of the plans, and additions to / deductions for the plan's fiduciary net position have been determined on the same basis as they are reported by the plan. For this purpose, benefit payments (including refunds of employee contributions) are recognized when due and payable in accordance with the benefit terms. Investments have been reported at fair value within the plan.

M. USE OF ESTIMATES

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America require management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities and disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements and the reported amounts of revenues, expenditures, and expenses during the reporting period. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

N. OTHER POSTEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS (OPEB)

The Caddo Clerk of Court follows GASB Statement 75 "Accounting and Financial Reporting for Postemployment Benefits Other Than Pensions," which requires the accrual of other postemployment benefits for retired employees. The Clerk of Court has recorded a liability for other postemployment benefits (see Note 6). In the government-wide financial statements, the OPEB liability is recorded as an expense and non-current liability and allocated on a functional basis. In the fund financial statements, OPEB expenditures are recognized in the amount contributed to the plan or expected to be liquidated with expendable available financial resources. Expendable available financial resources generally refer to OPEB payments due and payable as of the end of the year.

2. CASH, INTEREST BEARING DEPOSITS, AND INVESTMENTS

Cash: At June 30, 2023, the Clerk of Court had cash (book balances) totaling \$26,476,388 as follows:

| | Governmental Fund | Fiduciary Funds | Total |
|--------------------------------------|----------------------|--------------------|---------------|
| Cash | \$ 1,800 | \$ - | \$ 1,800 |
| Interest-bearing demand deposits | 51,203 | 25,346,712 | 25,397,915 |
| Non interest-bearing demand deposits | 525,697 | 550,976 | \$ 1,076,673 |
| | \$ 578,700 | \$ 25,897,688 | \$ 26,476,388 |

Investments: At June 30, 2023, the Clerk of Court had investments (book balances) totaling \$15,038,000 as follows:

| | Governmental Fund | Fiduciary Funds | Total |
|---------------|----------------------|--------------------|---------------|
| Time Deposits | 750,000 | \$ 1,885,000 | \$ 2,635,000 |
| LAMP | 7,150,000 | 5,253,000 | 12,403,000 |
| | \$ 7,900,000 | \$ 7,138,000 | \$ 15,038,000 |

These deposits are stated at cost, which approximates fair value. Under state law, these deposits (or the resulting bank balances) must be secured by federal deposit insurance, or the pledge of securities owned by the fiscal agent bank. The market value of the pledged securities plus the federal deposit insurance must at all times equal the amount on deposit with the fiscal agent. These securities are held in the name of the pledging fiscal agent bank in a holding or custodial bank that is mutually acceptable to both parties. Louisiana Revised Statute 39:1229 imposes a statutory requirement on the custodial bank to advertise and sell the pledged securities within 10 days of being notified by the Clerk of Court that the fiscal agent bank has failed to pay deposited funds upon demand. Further,

**CADDO PARISH CLERK OF COURT
SHREVEPORT, LOUISIANA**

Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended June 30, 2023

1. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES - (Continued)

2. CASH, INTEREST BEARING DEPOSITS, AND INVESTMENTS – (Continued)

Louisiana Revised Statute 39:1224 states that securities held by a third party shall be deemed to be held in the Clerk of Court's name.

The cash equivalents and investments of the Clerk of Court are subject to the following risks:

Custodial Credit Risk: Custodial credit risk for deposits is the risk that, in the event of the failure of a depository financial institution, the government will not be able to recover its deposits. At year end, the Clerk of Court had collected bank balances of \$29,542,538 which were fully protected by \$500,000 of federal depository insurance and the pledge of securities with a market value of \$32,278,335 held by the custodial bank in the name of the Clerk of Court.

Interest Rate Risk: The Clerk of Court's time deposits (certificates of deposit) have maturities of one year or less which limits exposure to fair value losses arising from rising interest rates.

Credit Risk: The Clerk of Court's investments comply with Louisiana Statutes (LSA R.S. 33:2955). Under state law, the Clerk of Court may deposit funds with a fiscal agent organized under the laws of Louisiana, the laws of any other state in the union, or the laws of the United States. The Clerk of Court may invest in United States bonds, treasury notes and bills, government backed agency securities, or certificates and time deposits of state banks organized under Louisiana law and national banks having principal offices in Louisiana.

Investments held at June 30, 2023, include \$12,403,000 (collected balances) invested with the Louisiana Asset Management Pool (LAMP), a local government investment pool. The Louisiana Asset Management Pool is administered by LAMP, Inc., a non-profit corporation organized under the laws of the State of Louisiana. Only local government entities having contracted to participate in LAMP have an investment interest in its pool of assets. The primary objective of LAMP is to provide a safe environment for the placement of public funds in short-term, high-quality investments. The LAMP portfolio includes only securities and other obligations in which local governments in Louisiana are authorized to invest in accordance with LSA-R.S. 33:2955.

The dollar weighted average portfolio maturity of LAMP assets is restricted to not more than 90 days and consists of no securities with a maturity in excess of 397 days. LAMP is designed to be highly liquid to give its participants immediate access to their account balances. The investments in LAMP are stated at fair value based upon quoted market rates. The fair value is determined on a weekly basis by LAMP and the value of the position in the external investment pool is the same as the value of the pool shares. LAMP, Inc. is subject to the regulatory oversight of the state treasurer and the board of directors. LAMP is not registered with the SEC as an investment company.

3. RECEIVABLES

The governmental activities receivables of \$221,721 at June 30, 2023, are as follows:

| | |
|---|--------------------------|
| Fees, charges and commissions for services: | |
| Court costs, fees and charges | \$ 34,199 |
| Fees for recording legal documents | 145,177 |
| Copies | 6,450 |
| Remote access | 26,699 |
| Portal fees | 6,766 |
| Other | 12,855 |
| Gross receivables | <u>232,146</u> |
| Less allowance for uncollectibles | (10,425) |
| Net total receivables | <u><u>\$ 221,721</u></u> |

**CADDO PARISH CLERK OF COURT
SHREVEPORT, LOUISIANA**

Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended June 30, 2023

4. CAPITAL ASSETS

Capital assets and depreciation activity as of and for the year ended June 30, 2023, is as follows:

| | <u>Beginning Balance</u> | <u>Additions</u> | <u>Deletions</u> | <u>Ending Balance</u> |
|---|------------------------------|---------------------|------------------|---------------------------|
| Governmental activities | | | | |
| <u>Capital assets being depreciated</u> | | | | |
| Office equipment | \$ 1,355,798 | \$ 21,283 | \$ - | \$ 1,377,081 |
| Furniture and fixtures | 1,106,439 | 162,463 | (27,133) | 1,241,769 |
| Office improvements | 758,788 | 8,991 | - | 767,779 |
| Right-of-use assets | 21,310 | - | - | 21,310 |
| Total | <u>3,242,335</u> | <u>192,737</u> | <u>(27,133)</u> | <u>3,407,939</u> |
| <u>Less accumulated depreciation and amortization</u> | | | | |
| Office equipment | 1,339,757 | 86,771 | - | 1,426,528 |
| Furniture and fixtures | 553,376 | 179,831 | (27,133) | 706,074 |
| Office improvements | 343,861 | 21,918 | - | 365,779 |
| Right-of-use assets | 4,736 | 7,103 | - | 11,839 |
| Total | <u>2,241,730</u> | <u>295,623</u> | <u>(27,133)</u> | <u>2,510,220</u> |
| Net capital assets | <u>\$ 1,000,605</u> | <u>\$ (102,886)</u> | <u>\$ -</u> | <u>\$ 897,719</u> |

Depreciation and amortization expense of \$295,623 was charged to the judiciary function of the governmental activities.

Under GASB 87 the Clerk of Court recognizes all leases over one year in term as right-of-use assets at the present value of all lease payments, amortized over the term of the leases. The Clerk of Court has only one right-of-use asset, being a 2022 Honda Pilot leased November 10, 2021. The lease was for a term of three (3) years with the fair market value of the lease being paid in full at lease commencement. The Clerk of Court does not anticipate renewing the lease or exercising the purchase option for the vehicle at the end of the term. The full payment of the lease in year one will be amortized over the three-year lease term using straight line amortization and is included in the above schedule.

5. PENSION PLAN

For purposes of measuring the net pension liability, deferred outflows of resources and deferred inflows of resources related to pension, and pension expense, information about the fiduciary net position of the Louisiana Clerks' of Court Retirement and Relief Fund, and additions to/deductions from the system's fiduciary net position have been determined on the same basis as they are reported by the systems. For this purpose, benefit payments (including refunds of employee contributions) are recognized when due and payable in accordance with the benefit terms.

Plan Description. Substantially all employees of the Caddo Parish Clerk of Court are members of the Louisiana Clerks' of Court Retirement and Relief Fund (System), a cost sharing, multiple-employer defined benefit pension plan administered by a separate board of trustees.

The Fund was established for the purpose of providing retirement allowances and other benefits as stated under the provisions of R.S. Title 11:1501 for eligible employees of the clerk of the supreme court, each of the district courts, each of the courts of appeal, each of the city and traffic courts in cities having a population in excess of four hundred thousand at the time of entrance into the Fund, the Louisiana Clerks' of Court Association, the Louisiana Clerks of Court Insurance Fund, and the employees of the Fund. The projection of benefit payments in the calculation of the total pension liability includes all benefits to be provided to current active and inactive employees through the Fund in accordance with the benefit terms and any additional legal agreements to provide benefits that are in force at the measurement date.

Retirement Benefits: A member or former member shall be eligible for regular retirement benefits upon attaining 12 or more years of credited service, attaining the age of 55 years (age 60 if hired on or after January 1, 2011),

**CADDO PARISH CLERK OF COURT
SHREVEPORT, LOUISIANA**

Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended June 30, 2023

5. PENSION PLAN – (Continued)

and terminating employment. Regular retirement benefits, payable monthly for life, is equal to 3% percent of the member's monthly average final compensation multiplied by the number of years of credited service, not to exceed 100% of the monthly average final compensation. The retirement benefit accrual rate is increased to 3 $\frac{1}{3}$ % for all service credit accrued after June 30, 1999 (for members hired prior to January 1, 2011). For members hired before July 1, 2006 and who retire prior to January 1, 2011, monthly average final compensation is based on the highest 36 consecutive months, with a limit increase of 10% in each of the last three years of measurement. For members hired after July 1, 2006, monthly average final compensation is based on the highest compensated 60 consecutive months, or successive joined months if service was interrupted, with a limit increase of 10% in each of the last five years of measurement. For members who were employed prior to July 1, 2006 and who retire after December 31, 2010, the period of final average compensation is 36 months plus the number of whole months elapsed since January 1, 2011, not to exceed 60 months.

Disability Benefits: Disability benefits are awarded to active members who are totally and permanently disabled as a result of injuries sustained in the line of duty or to active members with 10 or more years of credible service who are totally disabled due to any cause. A member who is officially certified as totally or permanently disabled by the State Medical Disability Board will be paid monthly disability retirement benefits equal to the greater of forty percent of their monthly average final compensation or 75% of their monthly regular retirement benefit computed as per R.S. 11:1521 (C).

Survivor Benefits: Upon the death of any active contributing member with less than five years of credited service, his/her accumulated contributions are paid to his/her designated beneficiary. Upon the death of any active contributing member with five or more years of credited service, automatic option 2 benefits are payable to the surviving spouse. These benefits are based on the retirement benefits accrued at the member's date of death with option factors used as if the member had continued in service to earliest normal retirement age. Benefit payments are to commence on the date a member would have first become eligible for normal retirement assuming continued service until that time. In lieu of a deferred survivor benefit, the surviving spouse may elect benefits payable immediately with benefits reduced $\frac{1}{4}$ of 1% for each month by which payments commence in advance of member's earliest normal retirement age. If a member has no surviving spouse, the surviving minor children under 18 or disabled children shall be paid $\frac{1}{2}$ of the member's accrued retirement benefit in equal shares. Upon the death of any former member with less than 12 years of service, the designated beneficiary may receive his/her accumulated contributions. Upon the death of any former member with 12 or more years of service, automatic option 2 benefits are payable to the surviving spouse with payments to commence on the member's retirement eligibility date. In lieu of periodic payments, the surviving spouse or children may receive a refund of the member's accumulated contributions.

Deferred Retirement Option Plan: In lieu of terminating employment and accepting a service retirement allowance, any member of the Fund who is eligible for a service retirement allowance may elect to participate in the Deferred Retirement Option Plan (DROP) for up to 36 months and defer the receipt of benefits. Upon commencement of participation in the plan, active membership in the Fund terminates and the participant's contributions cease; however, employer contributions continue. Compensation and creditable service remain as they existed on the effective date of commencement of participation in the plan. The monthly retirement benefits that would have been payable, had the member elected to cease employment and receive a service retirement allowance, are paid into the DROP account. Upon termination of employment at the end of the specified period of participation, a participant in the program may receive, at his option, a lump sum payment from the DROP account equal to the payments to the account or a true annuity based upon his account (subject to approval by the Board of Trustees). In addition, the member receives the monthly benefits that were paid into the DROP fund during his period of participation.

If employment is not terminated at the end of the participation period, payments into the account cease and the member resumes active contributing membership in the Fund. Interest is paid on DROP account balances for members who complete their DROP participation but do not terminate employment. The interest earnings are based on the actual rate of return on funds in such accounts. These interest accruals cease upon termination of employment.

Upon termination, the member receives a lump-sum payments from the DROP fund equal to the payments made to that fund on his behalf or a true annuity based in his account (subject to approval by the Board of Trustees). The monthly benefit payments that were being paid into the DROP fund are paid to the retiree and an

**CADDO PARISH CLERK OF COURT
SHREVEPORT, LOUISIANA**

Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended June 30, 2023

5. PENSION PLAN – (Continued)

additional benefit based on his additional service rendered since termination of DROP participation is calculated using the normal method of benefit computation. Prior to January 1, 2011, the average compensation used to calculate the additional benefit is that used to calculate the original benefit unless his period of additional service is at least 36 months. Effective January 1, 2011, the average compensation for members whose additional service is less than 36 months is equal to the lesser amount used to calculate his original benefit or the compensation earned in the period of additional service divided by the number of months of additional service. For former DROP participants who retire after December 30, 2010, the period used to determine final average compensation for post-DROP service is 36 months plus the number of whole months elapsed from January 1, 2011 to the date of DROP entry. In no event can the entire monthly benefit amount paid to the retiree exceed 100% of the average compensation used to compute the additional benefit. If a participant dies during the period of participation in the program, a lump sum payment equal to his account balance is paid to his named beneficiary or, if none, to his estate.

Cost of Living Adjustments: The Board of Trustees is authorized to grant retired members and widows of members who have been retired for at least one full calendar year an annual cost of 2.5% of their benefit (not to exceed \$40 per month), and all retired members and widows who are 65 years of age or older a 2% increase in their original benefit (or their benefit as of October 1, 1977, if they retired prior to that time). In order to grant the 2.5% COLA, the increase in the consumer price index must have exceeded 3% since the last COLA granted. In order for the Board to grant either of these increases, the Fund must meet certain other criteria as detailed in the Louisiana statute relating to funding status. In lieu of granting the above cost of living increases, Louisiana statutes allow the Board to grant a cost-of-living increase where the benefits shall be calculated using the number of years of service at retirement or at death plus the number of years since retirement or death multiplied by the cost-of-living amount which cannot exceed \$1.

Contributions: According to state statute, contribution requirements for all employers are actuarially determined each year. For the year ending June 30, 2022, the actual employer contribution rate was 22.25%.

In accordance with state statute, the Fund also receives ad valorem taxes and state revenue sharing funds. These additional sources of income are used as employer contributions and are considered support from non-employer contributing entities. Non-employer contributions are recognized as revenue during the year and excluded from pension expense. Non-employer contribution revenue for the Clerk of Court for the year ended June 30, 2022 was \$453,483.

Schedule of Employer Allocations: The schedule of employer allocations reports the historical employer contributions in addition to the employer allocation percentages for each participating employer. The historical employer contributions are used to determine the proportionate relationship of each employer to all employers of Louisiana Clerks' of Court Retirement and Relief Fund. The employer's proportion was determined on a basis that is consistent with the manner in which contributions to the pension plan are determined. The resulting allocation percentages were used in calculating each employer's proportionate share of the pension amounts.

The allocation method used in determining each employer's proportion was based on each employer's contributions to the Fund during the fiscal year ended June 30, 2022 as compared to the total of all employers' contributions received by the Fund during the fiscal year ended June 30, 2022.

Pension Liabilities, Pension Expense, and Deferred Outflows of Resources and Deferred Inflows of Resources Related to Pensions

At June 30, 2023, the Caddo Parish Clerk of Court reported a liability of \$9,079,863 for its proportionate share of the net pension liability of the Plan. The net pension liability was measured as of June 30, 2022, and the total pension liability used to calculate the net pension liability was determined by an actuarial valuation as of that date. The Clerk of Court's proportion of the net pension liability was based on a projection of the Clerk of Court's long-term share of contributions to the pension plan relative to the projected contributions of all participating employers, actuarially determined. At June 30, 2022 (Plan's measurement date), the Clerk of Court's proportion was 3.746183% which was a decrease of 0.028910% from the proportion measured as of June 30, 2021.

For the year ended June 30, 2023, the Clerk of Court recognized a pension expense of \$901,322, representing its proportionate share of the Plan's net expense, including amortization of deferred amounts.

**CADDO PARISH CLERK OF COURT
SHREVEPORT, LOUISIANA**

Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended June 30, 2023

5. PENSION PLAN – (Continued)

At June 30, 2023, the Clerk of Court reported deferred outflows of resources and deferred inflows of resources related to pensions from the following sources:

| | Deferred Outflows of Resources | Deferred Inflows of Resources |
|--|-----------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Differences between expected and actual experience | \$ 86,091 | \$ 82,536 |
| Changes of assumptions | 666,310 | - |
| Net difference between projected and actual earnings on pension plan investments | 1,942,595 | - |
| Changes in proportion and differences between Employer contributions and proportionate share of contributions | - | 37,386 |
| Differences between employer and proportionate share of contributions | 160,902 | 112,154 |
| Employer contributions subsequent to the measurement date | 887,389 | - |
| Total | \$ 3,743,287 | \$ 232,076 |

The Clerk of Court reported a total of \$887,389 as deferred outflow of resources related to pension contributions made subsequent to the measurement period of June 30, 2022, which will be recognized as a reduction in net pension liability in the year ended June 30, 2023. Other amounts reported as deferred outflows of resources and deferred inflows of resources related to pensions will be recognized in pension expense as follows:

| June 30, | |
|----------|-----------|
| 2023 | 884,520 |
| 2024 | 633,541 |
| 2025 | 175,792 |
| 2026 | 929,969 |
| Total | 2,623,822 |

Actuarial Methods and Assumptions: The net pension liability was measured as the portion of the present value of projected benefit payments to be provided through the pension plan to current active and inactive employees that is attributed to those employees' past periods of service, less the amount of the pension plan's fiduciary net position. The components of the net pension liability of the Clerk of Court as of June 30, 2022 are as follows:

| | |
|-----------------------------|--------------|
| Total Pension Liability | 35,049,680 |
| Plan Fiduciary Net Position | (25,969,817) |
| Total Net Pension Liability | \$ 9,079,863 |

A summary of the actuarial methods and assumptions used in determining the total pension liability as of June 30, 2022 is as follows:

| | |
|---------------------------------|---|
| Valuation Date | June 30, 2022 |
| Actuarial Cost Method | Entry Age Normal |
| Actuarial Assumptions: | |
| Expected Remaining Service Life | 5 Years |
| Investment Rate of Return | 6.55%, net of investment expense, including inflation |
| Inflation rate | 2.40% |
| Projected Salary Increases | 1-5 years of service - 6.2% |
| | 5 years or more - 5% |
| Mortality Rates | Pub - 2010 Public Retirement Plans multiplied by 120% |
| | Mortality Table with full generation projection using the appropriate MP-2019 improvement scale |

**CADDO PARISH CLERK OF COURT
SHREVEPORT, LOUISIANA**

Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended June 30, 2023

5. PENSION PLAN – (Continued)

Cost of Living Adjustments

The present value of future retirement benefits is based on benefits currently being paid by the Fund and includes previously granted cost-of-living increases. The present values do not include provisions for potential future increases not yet authorized by the Board of Trustees as they were deemed not to be substantively automatic.

The actuarial assumptions used are based on the assumptions used in the 2022 actuarial funding valuation which (with the exception of mortality) were based on results of an actuarial experience study for the period July 1, 2014 through June 30, 2019, unless otherwise specified. In cases where benefit structures were changes after the experience study period, assumptions were based on future experiences.

Mortality Rate. The mortality rate assumption used was verified by combining data from this plan with two other statewide plans which have similar workforce composition in order to produce a credible experience. The aggregated data was collected over the period July 1, 2014 through June 30, 2019. The data was then assigned credibility weighting and combined with a standard table to produce current levels of mortality. This mortality was then projected forward to a period equivalent to the estimated duration of the Fund's liabilities. Annuity values calculated based on this mortality were compared to those produced by using a setback of standard tables. The result of the procedure indicated that these tables would produce liability values approximating the appropriate generational mortality tables used.

The long-term expected real rate of return on pension plan investments was determined using a building-block method in which best-estimates ranges of expected future real rates of return (expected returns, net of pension plan investment expense and inflation) are developed for each major asset class. These ranges were combined to produce the long-term expected rate of return by weighting the expected future real rates of return by the target asset allocation percentage and by adding expected inflation. The long term expected rate of return was 6.02%, for the year ended June 30, 2022.

Best estimates of geometric real rates of return for each major asset class included in the Fund's target asset allocation as of June 30, 2022, is summarized in the following table:

| Asset Class | Target Asset Allocation | Long-Term Expected Portfolio Real Rate of Return |
|----------------------|-------------------------|--|
| Fixed Income: | | |
| Domestic Bonds | 25% | 2.50% |
| International Bonds | 22% | 3.50% |
| Domestic Equity | 38% | 7.50% |
| International Equity | 22% | 8.50% |
| Real Estate | 15% | 4.50% |
| | 100% | |

Discount Rate. The discount rate used to measure the total pension liability was 6.55%. The projection of cash flows used to determine the discount rate assumed that contributions from plan members will be made at the current contribution rates and that contributions from participating employers will be made at the actuarially determined rates approved by PRSAC taking into consideration the recommendation of the Fund's actuary. Based on those assumptions, the Fund's fiduciary net position was projected to be available to make all projected future benefit payments of current plan members. Therefore, the long-term expected rate of return on pension plan investments was applied to all periods of projected benefit payments to determine the total pension liability.

Sensitivity of the Clerk of Court's Proportionate Share of the Net Pension Liability to Changes in the Discount Rate: The following presents the net pension liability of the Clerk of Court calculated using the discount rate of 6.55 percent, as well as what the Clerk's net pension liability would be if it were calculated using a discount rate that is one percentage point lower (5.55 percent) or one percentage point higher (7.55 percent) than the current rate:

**CADDO PARISH CLERK OF COURT
SHREVEPORT, LOUISIANA**

Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended June 30, 2023

5. PENSION PLAN – (Continued)

| | 1% Decrease | Current Discount Rate | 1% Increase |
|-----------------------|---------------|--------------------------|--------------|
| | 5.55% | 6.55% | 7.55% |
| Net Pension Liability | \$ 12,960,270 | \$ 9,079,863 | \$ 5,810,580 |

Change in Net Pension Liability: The changes in the net pension liability for the year ended June 30, 2022, were recognized in the current reporting period as pension expense except as follows:

Differences between Expected and Actual Experience: The differences between expected and actual experience with regard to economic or demographic factors in the measurement of the total pension liability were recognized as pension expense using the straight-line amortization method over a closed period equal to the average of the expected remaining service lives of all employees that are provided with pensions through the pension plan.

Differences between Projected and Actual Investment Earnings: The differences between projected and actual investment earnings on pension plan investments were recognized in pension expense using the straight-line amortization method over a closed five-year period.

Changes of Assumptions or Other Inputs: The changes of assumptions about future economic or demographic factors were recognized in pension expense using the straight-line amortization method over a closed period equal to the average of the expected remaining service lives of all employees that are provided with pensions through the pension plan.

Changes in Proportion: Changes in the employer's proportionate shares of the collective net pension liability and collective deferred outflows of resources and deferred inflows of resources since the prior measurement date were recognized in employer's pension expense (benefit) using the straight-line amortization method over a closed period equal to the average of the expected remaining service lives of all employees that are provided pensions through the pension plan.

Contributions—Proportionate Share: Differences between contributions remitted to the System and the employer's proportionate share are recognized in pension expense (benefit) using the straight-line amortization method over a closed period equal to the average of the expected remaining service lives of all employees that are provided with a pension through the pension plan. The resulting deferred inflow/outflow and amortization is not reflected in the schedule of employer amounts due to differences that could arise between contributions reported by the Fund and contributions reported by the participating employer.

Funding Policy: Plan members are required by state statute to contribute 8.25% of their annual covered salary to the plan. The Caddo Parish Clerk of Court is required to contribute to the plan at an actuarially determined rate. The rate for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2023, was 22.25% of the annual covered payroll. Contributions to the System also include one-fourth of one percent of the taxes shown to be collectible by the tax rolls of each parish. The contribution requirements of plan members and the Caddo Parish Clerk of Court are established and may be amended by state statute. As provided by R.S. 11:103, the employer contributions are determined by actuarial valuation and are subject to change each year based on the results of the valuation for the prior fiscal year. The Caddo Parish Clerk of Court's contributions to the System for the years ending June 30, 2023, 2022, and 2021 were \$887,389, \$853,363, and \$803,538, respectively, equal to the required contributions for each year.

Plan Fiduciary Net Position. The System issues an annual publicly available financial report that includes financial statements, required supplementary information for the System and detailed information about the plan's fiduciary net position. Access to the report can be found on the Office of Louisiana Legislative Auditor's official website: www.la.state.la.us or by writing to the Louisiana Clerks of Court Retirement and Relief Fund, 11745 Bricksome Avenue, Suite B1, Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70816, or by calling (225) 293-1162.

**CADDO PARISH CLERK OF COURT
SHREVEPORT, LOUISIANA**

Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended June 30, 2023

6. POST RETIREMENT HEALTH CARE AND LIFE INSURANCE BENEFITS

General Information about the OPEB Plan

Plan description – The Caddo Parish Clerk of Court (the Clerk) provides certain continuing health care and life insurance benefits for its retired employees. The Caddo Parish Clerk of Court’s OPEB Plan (the OPEB Plan) is a single-employer defined benefit OPEB plan administered by the Clerk. The authority to establish and/or amend the obligation of the employer, employees and retirees rests with the Clerk. No assets are accumulated in a trust that meets the criteria in Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB).

Benefits Provided – Benefits are provided through comprehensive plans and are made available to employees upon actual retirement. Employees are covered by a retirement system whose retirement eligibility (D.R.O.P. entry) provisions as follows: Attainment of age 55 and 12 years of service; or, attainment of age 60 and 12 years of service for employees hired on and after January 1, 2011. Employees hired on and after January 1, 2011 are not able to retire or enter DROP until age 60 without actuarial reduction in benefits.

Life insurance coverage is provided to retirees for the active level, reduced to 37.5% of the original amount at age 67 and to 15% of the original amount at age 75, and 100% of the rate is paid by the employer.

Employees covered by benefit terms – As of the measurement date June 30, 2023, the following employees were covered by the benefit terms:

| | |
|--|-----|
| Inactive employees or beneficiaries currently receiving benefit payments | 42 |
| Active employees | 69 |
| | 111 |

Total OPEB Liability

The Clerk’s total OPEB liability is \$21,580,541 as of the measurement date June 30, 2023, the end of the fiscal year.

Actuarial Assumptions and other inputs – The total OPEB liability in the June 30, 2023 actuarial valuation was determined using the following actuarial assumptions and other inputs, applied to all periods included in the measurement, unless otherwise specified:

| | |
|-----------------------------|---|
| Inflation | 3.0% |
| Salary increases | 3.0%, including inflation |
| Discount rate | 3.54% annually (Beginning of Year to Determine ADC) |
| | 3.65% annually (As of End of Year Measurement Date) |
| Healthcare cost trend rates | Getzen Model |
| Mortality | Pub-2010/2021 |

The discount rate was based on the Bond Buyers’ 20 Year General Obligation municipal bond index on the applicable measurement dates.

The actuarial assumptions used in the June 30, 2023 valuation were based on the results of ongoing evaluations of the assumptions from July 1, 2009 to June 30, 2023.

Changes in the Total OPEB Liability

| | |
|--|---------------|
| Balance at June 30, 2022 | \$ 21,362,860 |
| Changes for the year: | |
| Service cost | 718,595 |
| Interest | 768,964 |
| Differences between expected and actual experience | 605,273 |
| Changes in assumptions | (1,225,433) |
| Benefit payments and net transfers | (649,718) |
| Net changes | 217,681 |
| Balance at June 30, 2023 | \$ 21,580,541 |

**CADDO PARISH CLERK OF COURT
SHREVEPORT, LOUISIANA**

Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended June 30, 2023

6. POST RETIREMENT HEALTH CARE AND LIFE INSURANCE BENEFITS – (Continued)

Sensitivity of the total OPEB liability to changes in the discount rate – The following presents the total OPEB liability of the Clerk, as well as what the Clerk’s total OPEB liability would be if it were calculated using a discount rate that is 1-percentage-point lower (2.65%) or 1-percentage-point higher (4.65%) than the current discount rate:

| | 1.0% Decrease (2.65%) | Current Discount Rate (3.65%) | 1.0% Increase (4.65%) |
|----------------------|----------------------------------|--|----------------------------------|
| Total OPEB liability | \$ 25,011,870 | \$ 21,580,541 | \$ 18,821,007 |

Sensitivity of the total OPEB liability to changes in the healthcare cost trend rates – The following presents the total OPEB liability of the Clerk, as well as what the Clerk’s total OPEB liability would be if it were calculated using healthcare cost trend rates that are 1-percentage-point lower (4.5%) or 1-percentage-point higher (6.5%) than the current healthcare trend rates:

| | 1.0% Decrease (4.5%) | Current Trend (5.5%) | 1.0% Increase (6.5%) |
|----------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Total OPEB liability | \$ 18,786,316 | \$ 21,580,541 | \$ 25,111,617 |

OPEB Expense and Deferred Outflows of Resources and Deferred Inflows of Resources Related to OPEB

For the year ended June 30, 2023, the Clerk recognized OPEB expense of \$455,894.

At June 30, 2023, the Clerk reported deferred outflows of resources and deferred inflows of resources related to OPEB from the following sources:

| | Deferred Outflows of Resources | Deferred Inflows of Resources |
|--|-----------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Differences between expected and actual experience | \$ - | \$ (2,382,754) |
| Changes in assumptions | 3,033,261 | (9,875,322) |
| Total | \$ 3,661,143 | \$ (12,885,957) |

Amounts reported as deferred outflows of resources and deferred inflows of resources related to OPEB will be recognized in OPEB expense as follows:

| Years ending June 30: | |
|-----------------------|----------------|
| 2024 | \$ (1,031,665) |
| 2025 | (1,031,665) |
| 2026 | (1,031,665) |
| 2027 | (1,034,772) |
| 2028 | (1,034,772) |
| Thereafter | (4,060,275) |
| | \$ (9,224,814) |

7. COMPENSATED ABSENCES

At June 30, 2023, employees of the Clerk of Court have accumulated and vested employee leave benefits, computed in accordance with GASB Codification Section C60. The liability for compensated absences is computed only at the end of the fiscal year. As of June 30, 2023, the Clerk of Courts compensated absences resulted in liabilities as follows:

| | Due within 1 year | Due > 1 year |
|---------------------------|----------------------|-----------------|
| Balances at July 1, 2022 | \$ 134,319 | \$ 483,676 |
| Increases | - | - |
| Decreases | (21,288) | (95,201) |
| Balances as June 30, 2023 | \$ 113,031 | \$ 388,475 |

**CADDO PARISH CLERK OF COURT
SHREVEPORT, LOUISIANA**

Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended June 30, 2023

8. DEFERRED COMPENSATION PLAN

Certain employees of the Caddo Parish Clerk of Court are eligible to participate in the State of Louisiana deferred compensation plan adopted under the provisions of the Internal Revenue Service Code Section 457. Employees may contribute up to 100% of their salary, not to exceed \$19,500 a year, to the plan on a pre-tax basis. The contributions are withheld from the employees' paychecks and the Clerk of Court makes a matching contribution equal to the amount contributed to a maximum percentage of the employee's monthly compensation. The contributions are fully vested immediately and are remitted to a third-party administrator each pay period where they are deposited to an account in the employee's name. The Clerk of Court does not assume any liability for the funds and does not have control over the funds once they are remitted to the third-party administrator. During the year ended June 30, 2023, the Clerk of Court's matching funds totaled \$9,839.

9. RISK MANAGEMENT

The Caddo Parish Clerk of Court is exposed to various risks of losses related to torts; theft of, damage to, and destruction of assets; errors and omissions; injuries to employees; and natural disasters. The Clerk purchases commercial insurance to provide workers compensation coverage, general liability, error and omission, and property insurance. There were no significant reductions in insurance coverage from the previous year. Settled claims resulting from these risks have not exceeded commercial insurance coverage in any of the past three fiscal years.

10. LITIGATION AND CLAIMS

At June 30, 2023, the Caddo Parish Clerk of Court was involved in litigation concerning several matters which, in the estimation of the legal advisor of the Clerk of Court, an estimate of the ultimate resolution of the suits cannot be made. However, it is the opinion of legal counsel that an unfavorable outcome is unlikely in the pending lawsuits.

11. EXPENDITURES OF THE CLERK OF COURT PAID BY THE PARISH COMMISSION

The Caddo Parish Clerk of Court's office is located in the Caddo Parish Courthouse. The cost of maintaining and operating the courthouse, as required by Louisiana Revised Statute 33:4715 is paid by the Caddo Parish Commission and are not included in the accompanying financial statements.

12. DEFICIT NET POSITION

A net position deficit of \$27,057,406 exists in the general fund resulting from noncurrent operating liabilities such as OPEB liability of \$21,580,541 and net pension liability of \$9,079,863.

13. SUBSEQUENT EVENTS

Subsequent events have been evaluated through November 10, 2023, the date the financial statements were available to be issued and has concluded that there are no significant events requiring recognition or disclosure through that date.

REQUIRED SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION (PART II)

CADDO PARISH CLERK OF COURT
Shreveport, Louisiana

BUDGETARY COMPARISON SCHEDULE - GENERAL FUND

For the year ended June 30, 2023

| | <u>Budgeted Amounts</u> | | <u>Actual</u> | <u>Variance with final budget positive (negative)</u> |
|--|-------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---|
| | <u>Original</u> | <u>Final</u> | | |
| REVENUES | | | | |
| Charges for services: | | | | |
| Court costs, fees and charges | \$ 5,000,000 | \$ 4,900,000 | \$ 4,921,672 | \$ 21,672 |
| Fees for recording legal documents | 4,600,000 | 4,200,000 | 4,188,803 | (11,197) |
| Fees for copies of documents | 723,675 | 658,675 | 521,563 | (137,112) |
| Licenses and permits | 409,950 | 409,950 | 418,088 | 8,138 |
| Miscellaneous | - | - | 76,263 | 76,263 |
| Use of money and property - interest income | 65,000 | 65,000 | 364,803 | 299,803 |
| TOTAL REVENUES | <u>10,798,625</u> | <u>10,233,625</u> | <u>10,491,192</u> | <u>257,567</u> |
| EXPENDITURES | | | | |
| Judiciary: | | | | |
| Current: | | | | |
| Personal services and related benefits | 8,530,377 | 8,530,377 | 8,345,785 | 184,592 |
| Materials and supplies | 1,100,000 | 1,100,000 | 1,109,535 | (9,535) |
| Operating services | 491,383 | 491,383 | 440,077 | 51,306 |
| Travel and other charges | - | - | 111,367 | (111,367) |
| Capital Outlay | 318,200 | 318,200 | 192,737 | 125,463 |
| TOTAL EXPENDITURES | <u>10,439,960</u> | <u>10,439,960</u> | <u>10,199,501</u> | <u>240,459</u> |
| EXCESS (Deficiency) of REVENUES OVER EXPENDITURES | | | | |
| | 358,665 | (206,335) | 291,691 | 498,026 |
| FUND BALANCE | | | | |
| Beginning of the year | 8,477,769 | 8,477,769 | 8,477,769 | - |
| End of the year | <u>\$ 8,836,434</u> | <u>\$ 8,271,434</u> | <u>\$ 8,769,460</u> | <u>\$ 498,026</u> |

The notes to the financial statements are an integral part of this statement.
See the accompanying independent auditor's report.

**CADDO PARISH CLERK OF COURT
Shreveport, Louisiana**

**Schedule of Proportionate Share of Net Pension Liability
For the year ended June 30, 2023**

Louisiana Clerks' of Court Retirement and Relief Fund:

| Fiscal Year* ending June 30, | Employer's proportion of the net pension liability (asset) | Employer's proportionate share of the net pension liability (asset) | Employer's covered payroll | Employer's proportionate share of the net pension liability as a % of its covered payroll | Plan fiduciary net position as a % of the total pension liability |
|------------------------------------|---|---|-------------------------------|--|---|
| 2015 | 3.324069% | \$ 4,483,710 | \$ 3,002,232 | 149% | 79.4% |
| 2016 | 3.333254% | \$ 4,999,986 | \$ 3,054,200 | 164% | 78.1% |
| 2017 | 3.486320% | \$ 6,449,602 | \$ 3,182,106 | 203% | 74.2% |
| 2018 | 3.500420% | \$ 5,295,903 | \$ 3,185,989 | 166% | 79.7% |
| 2019 | 3.643090% | \$ 6,059,557 | \$ 3,381,455 | 179% | 79.1% |
| 2020 | 3.862970% | \$ 7,015,126 | \$ 3,755,567 | 187% | 77.9% |
| 2021 | 3.679234% | \$ 8,851,741 | \$ 3,638,607 | 243% | 72.1% |
| 2022 | 3.775089% | \$ 5,021,769 | \$ 3,826,369 | 131% | 85.4% |
| 2023 | 3.746180% | \$ 9,079,863 | \$ 3,835,338 | 237% | 74.1% |

*Amounts presented were determined as of the measurement date (previous fiscal year end).

This schedule is intended to show information for 10 years.
Additional years will be displayed as they become available.

The notes to the financial statements are an integral part of this statement.
See the accompanying independent auditor's report.

CADDO PARISH CLERK OF COURT
Shreveport, Louisiana

Schedule of Employer Pension Contributions
For the year ended June 30, 2023

Louisiana Clerks' of Court Retirement and Relief Fund:

| Fiscal year* | Contractually required contribution | Contributions in relation to contractually required contribution | Contribution deficiency (excess) | Employer's covered payroll | Contributions as a % of covered payroll |
|-----------------|---|--|--|----------------------------------|---|
| 2015 | \$ 586,797 | \$ 586,797 | \$ - | \$ 3,054,200 | 19.21% |
| 2016 | \$ 604,602 | \$ 604,602 | \$ - | \$ 3,182,106 | 19.00% |
| 2017 | \$ 600,102 | \$ 600,102 | \$ - | \$ 3,185,989 | 18.84% |
| 2018 | \$ 642,476 | \$ 642,476 | \$ - | \$ 3,381,455 | 19.00% |
| 2019 | \$ 713,558 | \$ 713,558 | \$ - | \$ 3,755,567 | 19.00% |
| 2020 | \$ 691,335 | \$ 691,335 | \$ - | \$ 3,638,607 | 19.00% |
| 2021 | \$ 803,538 | \$ 803,538 | \$ - | \$ 3,826,369 | 21.00% |
| 2022 | \$ 853,363 | \$ 853,363 | \$ - | \$ 3,835,338 | 22.25% |
| 2023 | \$ 887,389 | \$ 887,389 | \$ - | \$ 3,988,263 | 22.25% |

*Amounts presented were determined as of the end of the fiscal year.

*This schedule is intended to show information for 10 years.
Additional years will be displayed as they become available.*

The notes to the financial statements are an integral part of this statement.
See the accompanying independent auditor's report.

**CADDO PARISH CLERK OF COURT
Shreveport, Louisiana**

**Schedule of Changes in Net OPEB Liability and Related Ratios
For the year ended June 30, 2023**

| | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 |
|---|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|-------------------|
| OPEB expenses | | | | | | |
| Service cost | \$ 711,138 | \$ 703,838 | \$ 1,018,660 | \$ 985,035 | \$ 1,014,956 | \$ 718,595 |
| Interest | 1,026,000 | 1,066,934 | 723,008 | 587,417 | 540,532 | 768,964 |
| Changes of benefit terms | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Difference between expected and actual experience | 27,963 | (1,054,307) | 154,421 | (2,801,056) | (330,439) | 605,273 |
| Changes of assumptions | - | (9,170,840) | 4,590,851 | 149,081 | (3,861,580) | (1,225,433) |
| Benefit payments | (550,203) | (519,002) | (547,547) | (490,758) | (517,750) | (649,718) |
| Net change in total OPEB liability | 1,214,898 | (8,973,377) | 5,939,392 | (1,570,281) | (3,154,281) | 217,681 |
| Total beginning OPEB liability | 27,906,509 | 29,121,407 | 20,148,030 | 26,087,422 | 24,517,141 | 21,362,860 |
| Total ending OPEB liability | \$ 29,121,407 | \$ 20,148,030 | \$ 26,087,422 | \$ 24,517,141 | \$ 21,362,860 | \$ 21,580,541 |
| Covered-employee payroll | \$ 6,217,058 | \$ 3,568,956 | \$ 3,676,025 | \$ 3,486,166 | \$ 3,590,751 | \$ 3,564,189 |
| Net OPEB liability as a % of covered-employee payroll | 468.41% | 564.54% | 709.66% | 703.27% | 594.94% | 605.48% |
| Notes to schedule: | | | | | | |
| <i>Benefit change:</i> | None | None | None | None | None | None |
| <i>Changes of assumptions:</i> | | | | | | |
| <i>Discount rate:</i> | 3.62% | 3.50% | 2.21% | 2.16% | 3.54% | 3.65% |
| <i>Mortality:</i> | RP-2000 | RP-2000 | RP-2000 | RP-2014 | RP-2014 | Pub-2010/ 2021 |
| <i>Trend:</i> | 5.50% | 5.50% | 5.50% | Variable | Variable | Getzen Model |

*This schedule is intended to show information for 10 years.
Additional years will be displayed as they become available.*

The notes to the financial statements are an integral part of this statement.
See the accompanying independent auditor's report.

**CADDO PARISH CLERK OF COURT
SHREVEPORT, LOUISIANA**

**Notes to Required Supplemental Information
as of and for the year ended June 30, 2023**

Budgetary Information

The budget for the General Fund (Salary Fund) is prepared and is adopted annually on the cash basis of accounting. A preliminary budget for the General Fund for the ensuing year is prepared by the Clerk of Court during May of each year. The availability of the proposed budget for public inspection and the date of the public hearing on the budget are then advertised in the official journal. During June, the Clerk of Court holds a public hearing on the proposed budget in order to receive comments from the public and other interested parties. The General Fund budget is adopted during June of each year and notice is published in the official journal.

The proposed budget for the fiscal year was made available for public inspection at the Clerk of Court's office on June 2, 2022. The proposed budget, prepared on the cash basis of accounting, was published in the official journal ten days before the public hearing. The budget hearing was held at the Clerk's office on June 13, 2022.

Louisiana Revised Statute (LSA-R.S.) 39:1311 requires the chief executive or administrative officer of the Clerk of Court's office to advise the Clerk in writing when:

- (1) Total revenue and other sources plus projected revenue and other sources for the remainder of the year, within a fund, are failing to meet total budgeted revenues and other sources by five percent or more.
- (2) Total actual expenditures and other uses plus projected expenditures and other uses for the remainder of the year, within a fund, are exceeding the total budgeted expenditures and other uses by five percent or more.
- (3) Actual beginning fund balance, within a fund, fails to meet estimated fund balance by five percent or more and fund balance is being used to fund current year expenditures.

The Clerk prepares necessary budget amendments when, in his judgment, actual operations differ materially from those anticipated in the original budget and formally adopts the amendments. The adoption of the amendments is published in the official journal. The General Fund budget for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2023, was amended once.

Expenditures may not legally exceed appropriations at the fund level. Appropriations that are not expended lapse at year-end. Formal budget integration is employed as a management control device during the year. Budget amounts included in the accompanying financial statements include the original adopted budget and all subsequent amendments. The Clerk is in compliance with the Louisiana Local Government Budget Act.

Pension Information

The schedule of the Caddo Parish Clerk of Court's proportionate share of the net pension liability and the schedule of the Caddo Parish Clerk of Court's pension contributions are intended to show information for 10 years. Additional years will be displayed as they become available. There were no changes of benefit terms nor changes in benefit assumptions for the year ended June 30, 2023.

Changes of assumptions:

| Year ended June 30, | Discount Rate | Investment Rate of return | Inflation Rate | Expected Remaining lives | Projected Salary increase |
|------------------------|------------------|------------------------------|-------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------------|
| 2015 | 7.25% | 7.25% | - | 5 | 5.75% |
| 2016 | 7.00% | 7.00% | - | 5 | 5.00% |
| 2017 | 7.00% | 7.00% | 2.5% | 5 | 5.00% |
| 2018 | 7.00% | 7.00% | 2.5% | 5 | 5.00% |
| 2019 | 6.75% | 6.75% | 2.5% | 5 | 5.00% |
| 2020 | 6.75% | 6.75% | 2.5% | 5 | 5.00% |
| 2021 | 6.75% | 6.75% | 2.5% | 5 | Range |
| 2022 | 6.55% | 6.55% | 2.4% | 5 | Range |
| 2023 | 6.55% | 6.55% | 2.4% | 5 | Range |

**CADDO PARISH CLERK OF COURT
SHREVEPORT, LOUISIANA**

**Notes to Required Supplemental Information
as of and for the year ended June 30, 2023**

Schedule of Changes in Net OPEB Liability and Related Ratios

Changes of Benefit Terms

There were no changes of benefit terms for the year ended June 30, 2023.

Changes of Assumptions

| <u>Year ended June 30,</u> | <u>Discount rate</u> | <u>Inflation Rate</u> | <u>Healthcare Cost Trends</u> | <u>Projected salary increase</u> |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------------|--|
| 2018 | 3.62% | 3.00% | 5.50% | 3.00% |
| 2019 | 3.50% | 2.50% | 5.50% | 3.00% |
| 2020 | 2.21% | 2.50% | 5.50% | 3.00% |
| 2021 | 2.16% | 2.00% | Variable | 3.00% |
| 2022 | 3.54% | 3.00% | Variable | 3.00% |
| 2023 | 3.65% | 3.00% | Getzen Model | 3.00% |

OTHER SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION

CADDO PARISH CLERK OF COURT
SHREVEPORT, LOUISIANA

Combining Schedule of Fiduciary Net Position
Custodial Funds
 June 30, 2023

| | <u>Jury Cost Fund</u> | <u>Advance Deposit Fund</u> | <u>Registry of Court Fund</u> | <u>Court Reporter Fund</u> | <u>Total</u> |
|--|-------------------------------|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|------------------------------------|----------------------|
| Assets | | | | | |
| Cash and cash equivalents | \$ 214,982 | \$ 351,470 | \$ 25,131,730 | \$ 199,506 | \$ 25,897,688 |
| Investments | 2,785,000 | 3,853,000 | - | 500,000 | 7,138,000 |
| Other financial instruments | - | 7,741 | 32,174 | - | 39,915 |
| Total Assets | <u>\$ 2,999,982</u> | <u>\$ 4,212,211</u> | <u>\$ 25,163,904</u> | <u>\$ 699,506</u> | <u>\$ 33,075,603</u> |
| Net Position | | | | | |
| Fiduciary net position - held for others | <u>\$ 2,999,982</u> | <u>\$ 4,212,211</u> | <u>\$ 25,163,904</u> | <u>\$ 699,506</u> | <u>\$ 33,075,603</u> |

The notes to the financial statements are an integral part of this statement.
 See the accompanying independent auditor's report.

CADDO PARISH CLERK OF COURT
SHREVEPORT, LOUISIANA

Combining Schedule of Changes in Fiduciary Net Position
Custodial Funds

For the year ended June 30, 2023

| | Jury Cost Fund | Advance Deposit Fund | Registry of Court Fund | Court Reporter Fund | Total |
|--|-------------------------------|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|------------------------------------|----------------------|
| ADDITIONS | | | | | |
| Suits and successions | \$ 838,063 | \$ 6,027,407 | \$ 4,885,277 | \$ 436,348 | \$ 12,187,095 |
| Investment income | 50,597 | - | 262,853 | 7,417 | 320,867 |
| Total additions | <u>888,660</u> | <u>6,027,407</u> | <u>5,148,130</u> | <u>443,765</u> | <u>12,507,962</u> |
| REDUCTIONS | | | | | |
| Clerk's costs (transferred to General Fund) | - | 3,083,157 | - | 30,544 | 3,113,701 |
| Court reporter costs (transferred to Court reporter fund) | - | 436,348 | - | - | 436,348 |
| Judge's Compensation Fund | - | 161,091 | - | - | 161,091 |
| Judicial Court Expense Fund | - | 87,973 | - | - | 87,973 |
| Settlements to litigants | - | 846,306 | 2,015,937 | - | 2,862,243 |
| Court professional fees | - | 80,126 | - | 345,756 | 425,882 |
| Battered women's fund | - | 8,560 | - | - | 8,560 |
| Pro bono projects | - | 16,454 | - | - | 16,454 |
| Summons Fee | 132,125 | - | - | - | 132,125 |
| Sheriffs' fees | 19,159 | 717,644 | - | - | 736,803 |
| Bond refunds | 265,423 | 405,937 | - | - | 671,360 |
| Other reductions | 62,128 | 71,562 | - | 25,530 | 159,220 |
| Total reductions | <u>478,835</u> | <u>5,915,158</u> | <u>2,015,937</u> | <u>401,830</u> | <u>8,811,760</u> |
| Net increase (decrease) in fiduciary net position | 409,825 | 112,249 | 3,132,193 | 41,935 | 3,696,202 |
| Net position- beginning | 2,590,157 | 4,099,962 | 22,031,711 | 657,571 | 29,379,401 |
| Net position - ending | <u>\$ 2,999,982</u> | <u>\$ 4,212,211</u> | <u>\$ 25,163,904</u> | <u>\$ 699,506</u> | <u>\$ 33,075,603</u> |

The notes to the financial statements are an integral part of this statement.
See the accompanying independent auditor's report.

CADDO PARISH CLERK OF COURT
 Shreveport, Louisiana

**Schedule of Compensation, Benefits and Other Payments
 to Agency Head or Chief Executive Officer**
 For the year ended June 30, 2023

Mike Spence, Clerk of Court

Purpose:

| | | |
|--|----|---------|
| Salary | \$ | 179,488 |
| Benefits- insurance | | 27,642 |
| Benefits- retirement | | 39,402 |
| Benefits- deferred compensation | | - |
| Benefits- other | | - |
| Vehicle provided by government | | 26,563 |
| Per diem | | 400 |
| Reimbursements | | 504 |
| Travel | | - |
| Registration fees | | - |
| Conferences and seminars | | - |
| Continuing professional education fees | | 575 |
| Cell phone | | - |
| Unvouchered expenses | | - |
| Special meals | | - |

Supplemental information.
 See the accompanying independent auditor's report.

Justice System Funding Schedule - Receiving Entity
As Required by Act 87 of the 2020 Regular Legislative Session

Schedule 8

| Identifying Information | |
|---|-----------------------------|
| Entity Name | Caddo Parish Clerk of Court |
| LLA Entity ID # | 1154 |
| Date that reporting period ended (mm/dd/yyyy) | 6/30/2023 |

Cash Basis Presentation

| | First Six Month Period Ended 12/31/22 | Second Six Month Period Ended 06/30/23 |
|--|--|---|
|--|--|---|

10. Receipts From:

| | | |
|---|---------|--------|
| <i>CADDO PARISH COMMISSION / CIVIL FEES</i> | 12,541 | 10,009 |
| <i>CADDO PARISH COMMISSION / CRIMINAL COURT COST/FEES</i> | 11,400 | 8,800 |
| <i>CADDO PARISH SHERIFF / CRIMINAL COURT COST/FEES</i> | 89,251 | 78,285 |
| <i>CADDO PARISH DISTRICT ATTORNEY / BOND FEES</i> | - | 1,236 |
| | - | - |
| Subtotal Receipts | 113,192 | 98,330 |

11. Ending Balance of Amounts Assessed but Not Received

| | | |
|--|---|---|
| | - | - |
|--|---|---|

**Justice System Funding Schedule - Collecting/Disbursing Entity
As Required by Act 87 of the 2020 Regular Legislative Session**

Schedule 9

| Identifying Information | | |
|---|-----------------------------|--|
| Entity Name | Caddo Parish Clerk of Court | |
| LLA Entity ID # | 1154 | |
| Date that reporting period ended (mm/dd/yyyy) | June 30, 2023 | |

| | First Six Month Period Ended 12/31/2022 | Second Six Month Period Ended 06/30/2023 |
|--|---|---|
|--|---|---|

| | | |
|--|-----------|-----------|
| 1. Beginning Balance of Amounts Collected (i.e. cash on hand) | 4,099,962 | 4,428,716 |
|--|-----------|-----------|

| | | |
|--|------------------|------------------|
| 2. Add: Collections | | |
| a Civil Fees (including refundable amounts such as garnishments or advance deposits) | 3,057,523 | 2,969,884 |
| b Bond Fees | - | - |
| c Asset Forfeiture/Sale | - | - |
| d Pre-Trial Diversion Program Fees | - | - |
| e Criminal Court Costs/Fees | - | - |
| f Criminal Fines - Contempt | - | - |
| g Criminal Fines - Other | - | - |
| h Restitution | - | - |
| i Probation/Parole/Supervision Fees | - | - |
| j Service/Collection Fees (e.g. credit card fees, report fees, 3rd party service fees) | - | - |
| k Interest Earnings on Collected Balances | - | - |
| l Other (do not include collections that fit into more specific categories above) | - | - |
| m Subtotal Collections | 3,057,523 | 2,969,884 |

| | | |
|--|---------|---------|
| 3. Less: Disbursements To Governments & Nonprofits: | | |
| Court Reporter Fund, Civil Fees | 208,348 | 228,000 |
| Judicial Expense, Civil Fees | 41,961 | 46,012 |
| Judges Compensation, Civil Fees | 77,095 | 83,996 |
| Pro Bono Project, Civil Fees | 7,832 | 8,623 |
| Battered Womens Fund, Civil Fees | 3,960 | 4,600 |
| Judicial College Fee, Civil Fees | 1,299 | 1,439 |
| Caddo Parish Sheriff, Civil Fees | 259,368 | 276,002 |
| Secretary of State, Civil Fees | 19,425 | 23,200 |
| Commissioner of Insurance, Civil Fees | 2,250 | 2,565 |
| Legal Services of North La, Civil Fees | 7,742 | 8,468 |
| Court of Appeals, Civil Fees | 3,282 | 3,281 |
| SHERIFF OF ACADIA PARISH, civil fees | 123 | 36 |
| SHERIFF OF ASCENSION PARISH, civil fees | 334 | 114 |
| SHERIFF OF AVOYELLES PARISH, civil fees | 44 | 51 |
| SHERIFF OF BEAUREGARD PARISH, civil fees | 30 | 31 |
| SHERIFF OF BIENVILLE PARISH, civil fees | 317 | 476 |
| SHERIFF OF BOSSIER PARISH, civil fees | 21,444 | 21,996 |
| SHERIFF OF CALCASIEU PARISH, civil fees | 431 | 606 |
| SHERIFF OF CAMERON PARISH, civil fees | 148 | - |
| SHERIFF OF CLAIBORNE PARISH, civil fees | 432 | 246 |
| SHERIFF OF CONCORDIA PARISH, civil fees | 91 | - |
| SHERIFF OF DESOTO PARISH, civil fees | 4,018 | 3,166 |
| SHERIFF OF EAST BATON ROUGE PARISH, civil fees | 38,198 | 41,412 |
| SHERIFF OF FRANKLIN PARISH, civil fees | 199 | 63 |
| SHERIFF OF GRANT PARISH, civil fees | - | 126 |
| SHERIFF OF IBERIA PARISH, civil fees | 35 | 85 |
| SHERIFF OF IBERVILLE PARISH, civil fees | 36 | 64 |
| SHERIFF OF JACKSON PARISH, civil fees | 201 | 189 |
| SHERIFF OF JEFFERSON DAVIS PARISH, civil fees | 106 | - |
| SHERIFF OF JEFFERSON PARISH, civil fees | 4,440 | 4,040 |
| SHERIFF OF LAFAYETTE PARISH, civil fees | 1,937 | 1,768 |
| SHERIFF OF LAFOURCHE PARISH, civil fees | 53 | 33 |
| SHERIFF OF LASALLE PARISH, civil fees | - | 88 |
| SHERIFF OF LINCOLN PARISH, civil fees | 350 | 293 |
| SHERIFF OF LIVINGSTON PARISH, civil fees | 158 | 85 |
| SHERIFF OF MADISON PARISH, civil fees | - | 90 |

| | First Six Month Period Ended 12/31/2022 | Second Six Month Period Ended 06/30/2023 |
|--|---|---|
| 3. Less: Disbursements To Governments & Nonprofits: | | |
| SHERIFF OF MOREHOUSE PARISH, civil fees | 62 | 34 |
| SHERIFF OF NATCHITOCHE PARISH, civil fees | 1,836 | 641 |
| SHERIFF OF ORLEANS PARISH, civil fees | 3,426 | 2,640 |
| SHERIFF OF OUACHITA PARISH, civil fees | 3,241 | 3,244 |
| SHERIFF OF POINTE COUPEE PARISH, civil fees | - | 82 |
| SHERIFF OF RAPIDES PARISH, civil fees | 1,788 | 1,699 |
| SHERIFF OF RED RIVER PARISH, civil fees | 221 | 238 |
| SHERIFF OF RICHLAND PARISH, civil fees | 150 | 243 |
| SHERIFF OF SABINE PARISH, civil fees | 558 | 368 |
| SHERIFF OF ST. BERNARD PARISH, civil fees | 34 | - |
| SHERIFF OF ST CHARLES PARISH, civil fees | - | 38 |
| SHERIFF OF ST. JAMES PARISH, civil fees | 43 | - |
| SHERIFF OF ST JOHN BAPTIST PARISH, civil fees | - | 71 |
| SHERIFF OF ST. LANDRY PARISH, civil fees | 106 | 32 |
| SHERIFF OF ST. TAMMANY PARISH, civil fees | 1,479 | 1,794 |
| SHERIFF OF TANGIPAHOA PARISH, civil fees | 296 | 471 |
| SHERIFF OF UNION PARISH, civil fees | 45 | 180 |
| SHERIFF OF VERMILLION PARISH, civil fees | - | 55 |
| SHERIFF OF VERNON PARISH, civil fees | 125 | 322 |
| SHERIFF OF WEBSTER PARISH, civil fees | 2,539 | 2,130 |
| SHERIFF OF WEST BATON ROUGE PARISH, civil fees | 130 | - |
| SHERIFF OF WEST CARROLL PARISH, civil fees | 180 | 61 |
| SHERIFF OF WEST FELICIANA PARISH, civil fees | 73 | 30 |
| SHERIFF OF WINN PARISH, civil fees | 69 | 31 |
| BOSSIER CITY MARSHALL'S OFFICE, civil fees | 90 | - |
| SHREVEPORT CITY MARSHALL, civil fees | 720 | 780 |
| 4. Less: Amounts Retained by Collecting Agency | | |
| a Collection Fee for Collecting/Disbursing to Others Based on Percentage of Collection Civil Fees | - | - |
| b Collection Fee for Collecting/Disbursing to Others Based on Fixed Amount | - | - |
| Amounts "Self-Disbursed" to Collecting Agency (<i>must include a separate line for</i> | | |
| c <i>each collection type, as applicable</i>) - Example: Criminal Fines - Other (<i>Additional</i> | | |
| <i>rows may be added as necessary</i>) | - | - |
| Civil Fees | 1,495,887 | 1,587,270 |
| Criminal Court Costs/Costs | - | - |
| 5. Less: Disbursements to Individuals/3rd Party Collection or Processing Agencies | | |
| a Civil Fee Refunds | 466,758 | 379,548 |
| b Bond Fee Refunds | 937 | 405,000 |
| c Restitution Payments to Individuals (additional detail is not required) | - | - |
| d Other Disbursements to Individuals (additional detail is not required) | - | - |
| e Payments to 3rd Party Collection/Processing Agencies | 42,289 | 38,143 |
| 6. Subtotal Disbursements/Retainage | 2,728,769 | 3,186,389 |
| 7. Total: Ending Balance of Amounts Collected but not Disbursed/Retained | 4,428,716 | 4,212,211 |
| 8. Ending Balance of "Partial Payments" Collected but not Disbursed - This balance is included in the Ending Balance of Amounts Collected but not Disbursed/Retained. | - | - |
| 9. Other Information: | | |
| a Ending Balance of Total Amounts Assessed but not yet Collected (<i>i.e. receivable balance</i>) | - | - |
| Total Waivers During the Fiscal Period (<i>i.e. non-cash reduction of receivable balances,</i> | | |
| b <i>such as time served or community service</i>) | - | - |

**OTHER REPORTS REQUIRED BY
GOVERNMENT AUDITING STANDARDS
AND THE LOUISIANA GOVERNMENTAL AUDIT GUIDE**

The following independent auditor's report on internal control over financial reporting and on compliance and other matters is presented in compliance with requirements of *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States and the *Louisiana Governmental Audit Guide*, issued by the Society of Louisiana Certified Public Accountants and the Louisiana Legislative Auditor.



Dees Gardner, Certified Public Accountants, LLC

Deborah D. Dees, CPA/CFF
122 Jefferson Street
Mansfield, LA 71052
www.deesgardnercpas.com

Maura Dees Gardner, CPA, CFE
1659 Hwy 171 / P.O. Box 328
Stonewall, LA 71078
Phone: (318) 872-3007

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT ON INTERNAL CONTROL OVER FINANCIAL REPORTING AND ON COMPLIANCE AND OTHER MATTERS BASED ON AN AUDIT OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS PERFORMED IN ACCORDANCE WITH GOVERNMENT AUDITING STANDARDS

The Honorable Mike Spence
Caddo Parish Clerk of Court
Shreveport, Louisiana

We have audited, in accordance with the auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standard* issued by the Comptroller General of the United States, the financial statements of the governmental activities, the major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information of the Caddo Parish Clerk of Court, Shreveport, Louisiana, as of and for the year ended June 30, 2023, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the Caddo Parish Clerk of Court's basic financial statements, and have issued our report thereon dated November 10, 2023.

Report on Internal Control Over Financial Reporting

In planning and performing our audit of the financial statements, we considered the Caddo Parish Clerk of Court's internal control over financial reporting (internal control) to determine the audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances for the purpose of expressing our opinions on the financial statements, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Caddo Parish Clerk of Court's internal control. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion on the effectiveness of the Caddo Parish Clerk of Court's internal control.

A deficiency in internal control exists when the design or operation of a control does not allow management or employees, in the normal course of performing their assigned functions, to prevent, or detect and correct, misstatements on a timely basis. A *material weakness* is a deficiency, or a combination of deficiencies, in internal control, such that there is a reasonable possibility that a material misstatement of the entity's financial statements will not be prevented, or detected and corrected on a timely basis. A *significant deficiency* is a deficiency, or a combination of deficiencies, in internal control that is less severe than a material weakness, yet important enough to merit attention by those charged with governance.

Our consideration of internal control was for the limited purpose described in the first paragraph of this section and was not designed to identify all deficiencies in internal control that might be material weaknesses or significant deficiencies. Given these limitations, during our audit we did not identify any deficiencies in internal control that we consider to be material weaknesses. However, material weaknesses may exist that have not been identified.

Report on Compliance and Other Matters

As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether the Caddo Parish Clerk of Court's financial statements are free from material misstatement, we performed tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements, noncompliance with which could have a direct and material effect on the determination of financial statement amounts. However, providing an opinion on compliance with those provisions was not an objective of our audit, and accordingly, we do not express such an opinion. The results of our tests disclosed instances of noncompliance that are required to be reported under *Government Auditing Standards* and which are described in the accompanying schedule of findings and responses as 2023-01.

Caddo Parish Clerk of Court's Responses to Findings

Government Auditing Standards requires the auditor to perform limited procedures on the Caddo Parish Clerk of Court's response to the findings identified in our audit and described in the accompanying schedule of findings and questioned costs. The Caddo Parish Clerk of Court's response was not subjected to the other auditing procedures applied in the audit of the financial statements and, accordingly, we express no opinion on the response.

Purpose of this Report

The purpose of this report is solely to describe the scope of our testing of internal control and compliance and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control or on compliance. This report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* in considering the entity's internal control and compliance. Accordingly, this communication is not suitable for any other purpose.

This report is intended solely for the information and use of the Caddo Parish Clerk of Court, management, and the Louisiana Legislative Auditor, and is not intended to be and should not be used by anyone other than these specified parties. However, this restriction is not intended to limit the distribution of this report which is a matter of public record and is distributed by the Legislative Auditor under Louisiana Revised Statute 24:513.

Dees Gardner, Certified Public Accountants, LLC

Dees Gardner, Certified Public Accountants, LLC
Mansfield, Louisiana
November 10, 2023

CADDO PARISH CLERK OF COURT
SHREVEPORT, LOUISIANA

Schedule of Findings
For the Year Ended June 30, 2023

Part I. Summary of Auditor's Results

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT:

We have audited the basic financial statements of the Caddo Parish Clerk of Court as of and for the year ended June 30, 2023, and have issued our report thereon dated October 24, 2023. We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States. Our audit of the financial statements as of June 30, 2023, resulted in an unmodified opinion.

REPORT ON COMPLIANCE AND INTERNAL CONTROL OVER THE FINANCIAL REPORTING:

Internal Control

| | | |
|------------------------|------------------------------|--|
| Significant Deficiency | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No |
| Material Weaknesses | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No |

Compliance

| | | |
|---|---|-----------------------------|
| Compliance Material to Financial Statements | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No |
|---|---|-----------------------------|

A management letter was not issued.

FEDERAL AWARDS: Not applicable

Part II. Findings relating to the Financial Statements which are required to be Reported under *Government Auditing Standards*.

FINDINGS RELATED TO INTERNAL CONTROL

None.

FINDINGS RELATED TO COMPLIANCE

2023-01. Noncompliance with Disposition of Surplus Movable Property Laws

Criteria: Article VII, §14 of the Louisiana Constitution of 1974 provides that no funds, credit, property, or things of value of the state or any political subdivision thereof, shall be loaned, pledged, or donated to or for any person, association, or corporation public or private. Disposition of surplus movable property, as defined in Louisiana R.S.33:4711.1(B)(3), involves the alienation of public property and, as such, must be in compliance with Article VII, §14.

Condition: Surplus property of the Clerk of Court was disposed of without first offering said property to the public to ensure fair market value was obtained.

Cause: Management did not understand Louisiana surplus movable property laws.

Effect: The Clerk of Court is not in compliance with Louisiana surplus movable property laws.

Recommendation: Management should ensure that all employees are familiar with Louisiana surplus property laws and the various approved methods of disposal.

**CADDO PARISH CLERK OF COURT
SHREVEPORT, LOUISIANA**

**Schedule of Prior Year Findings
For the Year Ended June 30, 2023**

FINDINGS RELATED TO COMPLIANCE

None

FINDINGS RELATED TO INTERNAL CONTROL

None

Management response to audit findings:

2023-01: Management will familiarize itself with the surplus property laws and make sure that future assets are disposed of in accordance with state law.

REPORT ON OTHER LEGAL AND REGULATORY REQUIREMENTS



Dees Gardner, Certified Public Accountants, LLC

Deborah D. Dees, CPA/CFF
122 Jefferson Street
Mansfield, LA 71052
www.deesgardnercpas.com

Maura Dees Gardner, CPA, CFE
1659 Hwy 171 / P.O. Box 328
Stonewall, LA 71078
Phone: (318) 872-3007

Independent Accountant's Report On Applying Agreed-Upon Procedures

To the Caddo Parish Clerk of Court
and the Louisiana Legislative Auditor:

We have performed the procedures enumerated below, which were agreed to by the Caddo Parish Clerk of Court (the Clerk) and the Louisiana Legislative Auditor (LLA) on the control and compliance (C/C) areas identified in the LLA's Statewide Agreed-Upon Procedures (SAUPs) for the fiscal period July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2023. The Clerk's management is responsible for those C/C areas identified in the SAUPs.

The Clerk has agreed to and acknowledged that the procedures performed are appropriate to meet the intended purpose of the engagement, which is to perform specified procedures on the C/C areas identified in LLA's SAUPs for the fiscal period July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2023. Additionally, LLA has agreed to and acknowledged that the procedures performed are appropriate for its purposes. This report may not be suitable for any other purpose. The procedures performed may not address all the items of interest to a user of this report and may not meet the needs of all users of this report and, as such, users are responsible for determining whether the procedures performed are appropriate for their purposes.

The procedures and associated findings are as follows:

1) **Written Policies and Procedures**

A. Obtain and inspect the entity's written policies and procedures and observe that they address each of the following categories and subcategories (if applicable to public funds and the entity's operations):

- i. **Budgeting**, including preparing, adopting, monitoring, and amending the budget.

Written policies and procedures were obtained and it was noted that the budgeting policy does not specifically address the areas noted above except that the Clerk will comply with the Louisiana Budgeting Act.

- ii. **Purchasing**, including (1) how purchases are initiated; (2) how vendors are added to the vendor list; (3) the preparation and approval process of purchase requisitions and purchase orders; (4) controls to ensure compliance with the public bid law; and (5) documentation required to be maintained for all bids and price quotes.

No exceptions were noted as a result of this procedure.

- iii. **Disbursements**, including processing, reviewing, and approving.

No exceptions were noted as a result of this procedure.

- iv. **Receipts/Collections**, including receiving, recording, and preparing deposits. Also, policies and procedures should include management's actions to determine the completeness of all collections for each type of revenue or agency fund additions.

Written policies and procedures were obtained and it was noted that the policy did not provide any specific procedures for the receipts process, the personnel involved, and how completeness of collections is determined.

- v. **Payroll/Personnel**, including (1) payroll processing, and (2) reviewing and approving time and attendance records, including leave and overtime worked, and (3) approval process for employee rates of pay or approval and maintenance of pay rate schedules.

No exceptions were noted as a result of this procedure.

- vi. **Contracting**, including (1) types of services requiring written contracts, (2) standard terms and conditions, (3) legal review, (4) approval process, and (5) monitoring process.
Written policies and procedures were obtained and it was noted that the policy did not provide any specific procedures for sections 2 or 5 above.
- vii. **Travel and expense reimbursement**, including (1) allowable expenses, (2) dollar thresholds by category of expense, (3) documentation requirements, and (4) required approvers.
No exceptions were noted as a result of this procedure.
- viii. **Credit Cards (and debit cards, fuel cards, P-Cards, if applicable)**, including (1) how cards are to be controlled, (2) allowable business uses, (3) documentation requirements, (4) required approvers of statements, and (5) monitoring card usage (e.g., determining the reasonableness of fuel card purchases).
No exceptions were noted as a result of this procedure.
- ix. **Ethics**, including (1) the prohibitions as defined in Louisiana Revised Statute 42:1111-1121, (2) actions to be taken if an ethics violation takes place, (3) system to monitor possible ethics violations, and (4) requirement that all employees, including elected officials, annually attest through signature verification that they have read the entity's ethics policy.
No exceptions were noted as a result of this procedure.
- x. **Debt Service**, including (1) debt issuance approval, (2) continuing disclosure/EMMA reporting requirements, (3) debt reserve requirements, and (4) debt service requirements.
No exceptions were noted as a result of this procedure.
- xi. **Information Technology Disaster Recovery/Business Continuity**, including (1) identification of critical data and frequency of data backups, (2) storage of backups in a separate physical location isolated from the network, (3) periodic testing/verification that backups can be restored, (4) use of antivirus software on all systems, (5) timely application of all available system and software patches/updates, and (6) identification of personnel, processes, and tools needed to recover operations after a critical event.
No exceptions were noted as a result of this procedure.
- xii. **Sexual Harassment**, including R.S. 42:342-344 requirements for (1) agency responsibilities and prohibitions, (2) annual employee training, and (3) annual reporting.
No exceptions were noted as a result of this procedure.

2) Board or Finance Committee

- A. Obtain and inspect the board/finance committee minutes for the fiscal period, as well as the board's enabling legislation, charter, bylaws, or equivalent document in effect during the fiscal period, and:
 - Section not applicable to entity.*
 - i. Observe that the board/finance committee met with a quorum at least monthly, or on a frequency in accordance with the board's enabling legislation, charter, bylaws, or other equivalent document.
Section not applicable to entity.
 - ii. For those entities reporting on the governmental accounting model, observe whether the minutes referenced or included monthly budget-to-actual comparisons on the general fund, quarterly budget-to-actual, at a minimum, on proprietary funds, and semi-annual budget-to-actual, at a minimum, on all special revenue funds. Alternatively, for those entities reporting on the not-for-profit accounting model, observe that the minutes referenced or included financial activity relating to public funds if those public funds comprised more than 10% of the entity's collections during the fiscal period.
Section not applicable to entity.

- iii. For governmental entities, obtain the prior year audit report and observe the unassigned fund balance in the general fund. If the general fund had a negative ending unassigned fund balance in the prior year audit report, observe that the minutes for at least one meeting during the fiscal period referenced or included a formal plan to eliminate the negative unassigned fund balance in the general fund.

Section not applicable to entity.

- iv. Observe whether the board/finance committee received written updates of the progress of resolving audit finding(s), according to management's corrective action plan at each meeting until the findings are considered fully resolved.

Section not applicable to entity.

3) Bank Reconciliations

- A. Obtain a listing of client bank accounts for the fiscal period from management and management's representation that the listing is complete. Ask management to identify the entity's main operating account. Select the entity's main operating account and randomly select 4 additional accounts (or all accounts if less than 5). Randomly select one month from the fiscal period, obtain and inspect the corresponding bank statement and reconciliation for selected each account, and observe that:

A listing of client bank accounts from management and management's representation that the listing is complete were obtained. The main operating account and 4 additional accounts were selected for review.

- i. Bank reconciliations include evidence that they were prepared within 2 months of the related statement closing date (e.g., initialed and dated, electronically logged);

No exceptions were noted as a result of this procedure.

- ii. Bank reconciliations include evidence that a member of management or a board member who does not handle cash, post ledgers, or issue checks has reviewed each bank reconciliation (e.g., initialed and dated, electronically logged); and

No exceptions were noted as a result of this procedure.

- iii. Management has documentation reflecting that it has researched reconciling items that have been outstanding for more than 12 months from the statement closing date, if applicable.

No exceptions were noted as a result of this procedure.

4) Collections (excluding EFTs)

- A. Obtain a listing of deposit sites for the fiscal period where deposits for cash/checks/money orders (cash) are prepared and management's representation that the listing is complete. Randomly select 5 deposit sites (or all deposit sites if less than 5).

A listing of deposit sites for the fiscal period and management's representation that the listing is complete were obtained. The only deposit site of the entity was selected.

- B. For each deposit site selected, obtain a listing of collection locations and management's representation that the listing is complete. Randomly select one collection location for each deposit site (i.e. 5 collection locations for 5 deposit sites), obtain and inspect written policies and procedures relating to employee job duties (if no written policies or procedures, inquire of employees about their job duties) at each collection location, and observe that job duties are properly segregated at each collection location such that:

A listing of collection locations and management's representation that the listing is complete was obtained. A random collection location of the entity was selected.

- i. Employees that are responsible for cash collections do not share cash drawers/registers.

No exceptions were noted as a result of this procedure.

- ii. Each employee responsible for collecting cash is not responsible for preparing/making bank deposits, unless another employee/official is responsible for reconciling collection documentation (e.g. pre-numbered receipts) to the deposit.

No exceptions were noted as a result of this procedure.

- iii. Each employee responsible for collecting cash is not responsible for posting collection entries to the general ledger or subsidiary ledgers, unless another employee/official is responsible for reconciling ledger postings to each other and to the deposit.

No exceptions were noted as a result of this procedure.

- iv. The employee(s) responsible for reconciling cash collections to the general ledger and/or subsidiary ledgers, by revenue source and/or agency fund additions are not responsible for collecting cash, unless another employee verifies the reconciliation.

No exceptions were noted as a result of this procedure.

- C. Obtain from management a copy of the bond or insurance policy for theft covering all employees who have access to cash. Observe that the bond or insurance policy for theft was in force during the fiscal period.

No exceptions were noted as a result of this procedure.

- D. Randomly select two deposit dates for each of the 5 bank accounts selected for procedure #3A under "Bank Reconciliations" above (select the next deposit date chronologically if no deposits were made on the dates randomly selected and randomly select a deposit if multiple deposits are made on the same day). Obtain supporting documentation for each of the 10 deposits and:

Only one bank account under procedure #3 had applicable deposits to test under this section. Two random deposits were selected for testing.

- i. Observe that receipts are sequentially pre-numbered.

Section not applicable to entity.

- ii. Trace sequentially pre-numbered receipts, system reports, and other related collection documentation to the deposit slip.

No exceptions were noted as a result of this procedure.

- iii. Trace the deposit slip total to the actual deposit per the bank statement.

No exceptions were noted as a result of this procedure.

- iv. Observe that the deposit was made within one business day of receipt at the collection location (within one week if the depository is more than 10 miles from the collection location or the deposit is less than \$100).

No exceptions were noted as a result of this procedure.

- v. Trace the actual deposit per the bank statement to the general ledger.

No exceptions were noted as a result of this procedure.

5) Non-Payroll Disbursements (exclude card and petty cash purchases, and travel reimbursements)

- A. Obtain a listing of locations that process payments for the fiscal period and management's representation that the listing is complete. Randomly select 5 locations (or all locations if less than 5).

A listing of locations that process payments for the fiscal period and management's representation that the listing is complete were obtained. The only location of the entity was selected.

- B. For each location selected under #5A above, obtain a listing of those employees involved with non-payroll purchasing and payment functions. Obtain written policies and procedures relating to employee job duties (if the agency has no written policies and procedures, inquire of employees about their job duties), and observe that job duties are properly segregated such that:

- i. At least two employees are involved in initiating a purchase request, approving a purchase, and placing an order/making the purchase.
No exceptions were noted as a result of this procedure.
 - ii. At least two employees are involved in processing and approving payments to vendors.
No exceptions were noted as a result of this procedure.
 - iii. The employee responsible for processing payments is prohibited from adding/modifying vendor files, unless another employee is responsible for periodically reviewing changes to vendor files.
No exceptions were noted as a result of this procedure.
 - iv. Either the employee/official responsible for signing checks mails the payment or gives the signed checks to an employee to mail who is not responsible for processing payments.
No exceptions were noted as a result of this procedure.
 - v. Only employees/officials authorized to sign checks approve the electronic disbursement (release) of funds, whether through automated clearinghouse (ACH), electronic funds transfer (EFT), wire transfer, or some other electronic means.
No exceptions were noted as a result of this procedure.
- C. For each location selected under #8 above, obtain the entity's non-payroll disbursement transaction population and obtain management's representation that the population is complete. Randomly select 5 disbursements for each location, obtain supporting documentation for each transaction and:
- i. Observe that the disbursement matched the related original invoice/billing statement.
No exceptions were noted as a result of this procedure.
 - ii. Observe that the disbursement documentation included evidence (e.g., initial/date, electronic logging) of segregation of duties tested under #9, as applicable.
No exceptions were noted as a result of this procedure.
- D. Using the entity's main operating account and the month selected in Bank Reconciliations procedure #3A, randomly select 5 non-payroll-related electronic disbursements (or all electronic disbursements if less than 5) and observe that each electronic disbursement was (a) approved by only those persons authorized to disburse funds (e.g., sign checks) per the entity's policy, and (b) approved by the required number of authorized signers per the entity's policy. Note: If no electronic payments were made from the main operating account during the month selected the practitioner should select an alternative month and/or account for testing that does include electronic disbursements.
No exceptions were noted as a result of this procedure.

6) Credit Cards/Debit Cards/Fuel Cards/P-Cards

- A. Obtain from management a listing of all active credit cards, bank debit cards, fuel cards, and P-cards (cards) for the fiscal period, including the card numbers and the names of the persons who maintained possession of the cards. Obtain management's representation that the listing is complete.
A listing of active cards for the fiscal period and management's representation that the listing is complete were obtained.
- B. Using the listing prepared by management, randomly select 5 cards (or all cards if less than 5) that were used during the fiscal period. Randomly select one monthly statement or combined statement for each card (for a debit card, randomly select one monthly bank statement), obtain supporting documentation, and:
A random monthly statement for all 3 cards of the entity selected for review.

- i. Observe that there is evidence that the monthly statement or combined statement and supporting documentation (e.g., original receipts for credit/debit card purchases, exception reports for excessive fuel card usage) was reviewed and approved, in writing (or electronically approved), by someone other than the authorized card holder.

No exceptions were noted as a result of this procedure.

- ii. Observe that finance charges and late fees were not assessed on the selected statements.

No exceptions were noted as a result of this procedure.

- C. Using the monthly statements or combined statements selected under #12 above, excluding fuel cards, randomly select 10 transactions (or all transactions if less than 10) from each statement, and obtain supporting documentation for the transactions (i.e. each card should have 10 transactions subject to testing). For each transaction, observe that it is supported by (1) an original itemized receipt that identifies precisely what was purchased, (2) written documentation of the business/public purpose, and (3) documentation of the individuals participating in meals (for meal charges only). For missing receipts, the practitioner should describe the nature of the transaction and note whether management had a compensating control to address missing receipts, such as a "missing receipt statement" that is subject to increased scrutiny.

No exceptions were noted as a result of this procedure.

7) Travel and Travel-Related Expense Reimbursements (excluding card transactions)

- A. Obtain from management a listing of all travel and travel-related expense reimbursements during the fiscal period and management's representation that the listing or general ledger is complete. Randomly select 5 reimbursements, obtain the related expense reimbursement forms/prepaid expense documentation of each selected reimbursement, as well as the supporting documentation. For each of the 5 reimbursements selected:

A listing of all travel and travel-related expense reimbursements during the fiscal period and management's representation that the listing is complete were obtained.

- i. If reimbursed using a per diem, agree the reimbursement rate to those rates established either by the State of Louisiana or the U.S. General Services Administration (www.gsa.gov).

No exceptions to entity policy were noted but policy rates can exceed rates established by GSA.

- ii. If reimbursed using actual costs, observe that the reimbursement is supported by an original itemized receipt that identifies precisely what was purchased.

No exceptions were noted as a result of this procedure.

- iii. Observe that each reimbursement is supported by documentation of the business/public purpose (for meal charges, observe that the documentation includes the names of those individuals participating) and other documentation required by written policies and procedures procedure 1A.

No exceptions were noted as a result of this procedure.

- iv. Observe that each reimbursement was reviewed and approved, in writing, by someone other than the person receiving reimbursement.

No exceptions were noted as a result of this procedure.

8) Contracts

- A. Obtain from management a listing of all agreements/contracts for professional services, materials and supplies, leases, and construction activities that were initiated or renewed during the fiscal period. *Alternately, the practitioner may use an equivalent selection source, such as an active vendor list.* Obtain management's representation that the listing is complete. Randomly select 5 contracts (or all contracts if less than 5) from the listing, excluding the practitioner's contract, and:

A listing of all agreements/contracts for professional services, materials and supplies, leases, and construction activities that were initiated or renewed during the fiscal period and management's representation that the listing is complete were obtained.

- i. Observe that the contract was bid in accordance with the Louisiana Public Bid Law (e.g., solicited quotes or bids, advertised), if required by law.

No applicable contracts were observed.

- ii. Observe that the contract was approved by the governing body/board, if required by policy or law (e.g. Lawrason Act, Home Rule Charter).

Not applicable to entity.

- iii. If the contract was amended (e.g. change order), observe that the original contract terms provided for such an amendment.

No exceptions were noted as a result of this procedure.

- iv. Randomly select one payment from the fiscal period for each of the 5 contracts, obtain the supporting invoice, agree the invoice to the contract terms, and observe that the invoice and related payment agreed to the terms and conditions of the contract.

No exceptions were noted as a result of this procedure.

9) Payroll and Personnel

- A. Obtain a listing of employees/elected officials employed during the fiscal period and management's representation that the listing is complete. Randomly select 5 employees/officials, obtain related paid salaries and personnel files, and agree paid salaries to authorized salaries/pay rates in the personnel files.

A listing of employees/elected officials employed during the fiscal period and management's representation that the listing is complete were obtained. The five employees of the entity selected for review.

- B. Randomly select one pay period during the fiscal period. For the 5 employees/officials selected under #9A above, obtain attendance records and leave documentation for the pay period, and:

- i. Observe that all selected employees/officials documented their daily attendance and leave (e.g., vacation, sick, compensatory).

No exceptions were noted as a result of this procedure.

- ii. Observe that supervisors approved the attendance and leave of the selected employees/officials.

No exceptions were noted as a result of this procedure.

- iii. Observe that any leave accrued or taken during the pay period is reflected in the entity's cumulative leave records.

No exceptions were noted as a result of this procedure.

- iv. Observe the rate paid to the employees or officials agrees to the authorized salary/pay rate found within the personnel file.

No exceptions were noted as a result of this procedure.

- C. Obtain a listing of those employees/officials that received termination payments during the fiscal period and management's representation that the list is complete. Randomly select two employees/officials, obtain related documentation of the hours and pay rates used in management's termination payment calculations, agree the hours to the employee/officials' cumulate leave records, and agree the pay rates to the employee/officials' authorized pay rates in the employee/officials' personnel files.

No exceptions were noted as a result of this procedure.

- D. Obtain management's representation that employer and employee portions of payroll taxes, retirement contributions, health insurance premiums, and workers' compensation premiums have been paid, and associated forms have been filed, by required deadlines.

No exceptions were noted as a result of this procedure.

10) Ethics

- A. Using the 5 randomly selected employees/officials from procedure #9A under "Payroll and Personnel" above obtain ethics documentation from management, and:

- i. Observe that the documentation demonstrates each employee/official completed one hour of ethics training during the calendar year as require by R.S. 42:1170.

No exceptions were noted as a result of this procedure.

- ii. Observe whether the entity maintains documentation which demonstrates that each employee and official were notified of any changes to the entity's ethics policy during the fiscal period, as applicable.

No exceptions were noted as a result of this procedure.

- B. Inquire and/or observe whether the agency has appointed an ethics designee as required by R.S. 42:1170.

No exceptions were noted as a result of this procedure.

11) Debt Service

- A. Obtain a listing of bonds/notes issued during the fiscal period and management's representation that the listing is complete. Select all bonds/notes on the listing, obtain supporting documentation, and observe that State Bond Commission approval was obtained for each bond/note issued.

Section not applicable to entity.

- B. Obtain a listing of bonds/notes outstanding at the end of the fiscal period and management's representation that the listing is complete. Randomly select one bond/note, inspect debt covenants, obtain supporting documentation for the reserve balance and payments, and agree actual reserve balances and payments to those required by debt covenants (including contingency funds, short-lived asset funds, or other funds required by the debt covenants).

Section not applicable to entity.

12) Fraud Notice

- A. Obtain a listing of misappropriations of public funds and assets during the fiscal period and management's representation that the listing is complete. Select all misappropriations on the listing, obtain supporting documentation, and observe that the entity reported the misappropriation(s) to the legislative auditor and the district attorney of the parish in which the entity is domiciled as required by R.S. 24:523.

No misappropriations reported by entity.

- B. Observe that the entity has posted on its premises and website, the notice required by R.S. 24:523.1 concerning the reporting of misappropriation, fraud, waste, or abuse of public funds.

No exceptions were noted as a result of this procedure.

13) Information Technology Disaster Recovery/Business Continuity

- A. Perform the following procedures:

- i. Obtain and inspect the entity's most recent documentation that it has backed up its critical data (if there is no written documentation, then inquire of personnel responsible for backing up critical data) and observe evidence that such backup (a) occurred within the past week, (b) was not stored on the government's local server or network, and (c) was encrypted.

- ii. Obtain and inspect the entity's most recent documentation that it has tested/verified that its backups can be restored (if no written documentation, inquire of personnel responsible for testing/verifying backup restoration) and observe evidence that the test/verification was successfully performed within the past 3 months.
 - iii. Obtain a listing of the entity's computers currently in use and their related locations, and management's representation that the listing is complete. Randomly select 5 computers and observe while management demonstrates that the selected computers have current and active antivirus software and that the operating system and accounting system software in use are currently supported by the vendor.
- B. Randomly select 5 terminated employees (or all terminated employees if less than 5) using the list of terminated employees obtained in procedure #9C. Observe evidence that the selected terminated employees have been removed or disabled from the network.

We performed the procedures and discussed the results with management.

14) Prevention of Sexual Harassment

- A. Using the 5 randomly selected employees/officials from procedure #9A under "Payroll and Personnel" above, obtain sexual harassment training documentation from management, and observe the documentation demonstrates each employee/official completed at least one hour of sexual harassment training during the calendar year as required by R.S. 42:343.

No exceptions were noted as a result of this procedure.

- B. Observe the entity has posted its sexual harassment policy and complaint procedure on its website (or in a conspicuous location on the entity's premises if the entity does not have a website).

No exceptions were noted as a result of this procedure.

- C. Obtain the entity's annual sexual harassment report for the current fiscal period, observe that the report was dated on or before February 1, and observe it includes the applicable requirements of R.S. 42:344:

- i. Number and percentage of public servants in the agency who have completed the training requirements;
100%.
- ii. Number of sexual harassment complaints received by the agency;
0.
- iii. Number of complaints which resulted in a finding that sexual harassment occurred;
0.
- iv. Number of complaints in which the finding of sexual harassment resulted in discipline or corrective action; and
0.
- v. Amount of time it took to resolve each complaint.
0.

We were engaged by the Clerk to perform this agreed-upon procedures engagement and conducted our engagement in accordance with attestation standards established by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants and applicable standards of *Government Auditing Standards*. We were not engaged to and did not conduct an examination or review engagement, the objective of which would be the expression of an opinion or conclusion, respectively, on those C/C areas identified in the SAUPs. Accordingly, we do not express such an opinion or conclusion. Had we performed additional procedures, other matters might have come to our attention that would have been reported to you.

We are required to be independent of the Clerk and to meet our other ethical responsibilities, in accordance with the relevant ethical requirements related to our agreed-upon procedures engagement.

The purpose of this report is solely to describe the scope of testing performed on those C/C areas identified in the SAUPs, and the result of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on control or compliance. Accordingly, this report is not suitable for any other purpose. Under Louisiana Revised Statute 24:513, this report is distributed by the LLA as a public document.

Dees Gardner, Certified Public Accountants, LLC

Mansfield, LA
November 10, 2023

Management responses to statewide agreed upon procedure exceptions:

Section 1 - Written Policies and Procedures

Management will review written policies and procedures and address the noted areas.